









LETTERS

TO

N. WISEMAN, D.D.

ON THE

ERRORS OF ROMANISM,

IN RESPECT TO THE

WORSHIP OF SAINTS, SATISFACTIONS, PURGATORY,

INDULGENCES, AND THE WORSHIP OF

IMAGES AND RELICS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN EXAMINATION OF MR. SIBTHORP'S REASONS

FOR HIS

SECESSION FROM THE CHURCH.

*WITH A SUPPLEMENT.*

BY THE

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## P R E F A C E.

THE publication of the series of Letters now brought to a conclusion (at least for the present), was undertaken with a view to exhibit some of the most important features of Romanism in their genuine form. This task has become necessary in consequence of the system of Reserve so generally practised by Romish controversialists, in reference to the more obnoxious parts of their system.

The system referred to, studiously distinguishes the doctrines and practices prevalent in the Roman Communion into two classes; the former consisting of matters of faith, or doctrines defined by the Church; the latter consisting of matters of opinion, or doctrines not so defined. The use made of this distinction in all writings and discourses intended for those who are opposed to Romanism, is to avoid all responsibility for, and all discussion on doctrines of the latter class, by representing them as mere non-essentials, which any member of the Roman Communion may dispute or reject at pleasure; while the attention of opponents is drawn entirely to the former class of doctrines, which being commonly proposed in general terms and with great caution, are far less assailable.

The benefits derived from this system are various. In the first place it induces some of those who are opposed to Romanism, to direct their attention almost entirely to the formal definitions of the Council of Trent, and to condemn some points which might be more discreetly left untouched. The effect of this is to create division amongst opponents, and to place some of them in untenable positions. Secondly, all discussion is avoided on weak and vulnerable points, and there is no danger lest the popular mind should

be disturbed by doubts on the propriety of its most favourite notions and practices. Thirdly, it smooths away any opposition which might arise from Romanists themselves if these doctrines were pronounced essential; and facilitates their dissemination throughout the community. So that, in fine, the most highly objectionable tenets may be universally received amongst Romanists, and yet it may be positively denied that the Roman Catholic Church teaches those tenets. It has been a chief object in these Letters to detect and expose this system, which must be considered as more ingenious than honest.

The Author is desirous to record his most settled conviction, that evils are prevalent in the Roman Communion, of a far more dangerous character, than can be found elsewhere. In the present series of Tracts, only a small portion of those evils has been detailed; but enough has been said to shew, that several doctrines of a dangerous and heretical character, and various practices which are most decidedly Idolatrous, are openly, and without censure, disseminated, sanctioned, and authorized amongst Romanists.

Setting aside those sects which are bound by their profession to reject articles of the Christian faith, there are perhaps few religious communities which would not, on the whole, contrast favourably with Romanism. A comparison, not on insulated points, nor with any partial view, would suffice to shew, that any evils which may have arisen in connection with the Reformation, were more than counterbalanced by the evils of the opposite system; and a more accurate knowledge of that system would enable us to do more justice to the principles of the Reformers, and to feel more gratitude for the results of their labours.

It has been thought advisable to subjoin to this series of Letters, two Tracts in reply to the Rev. R. W. Sibthorp's "Answer to the question, Why have you become a Catholic," and his "Further Answer," &c.



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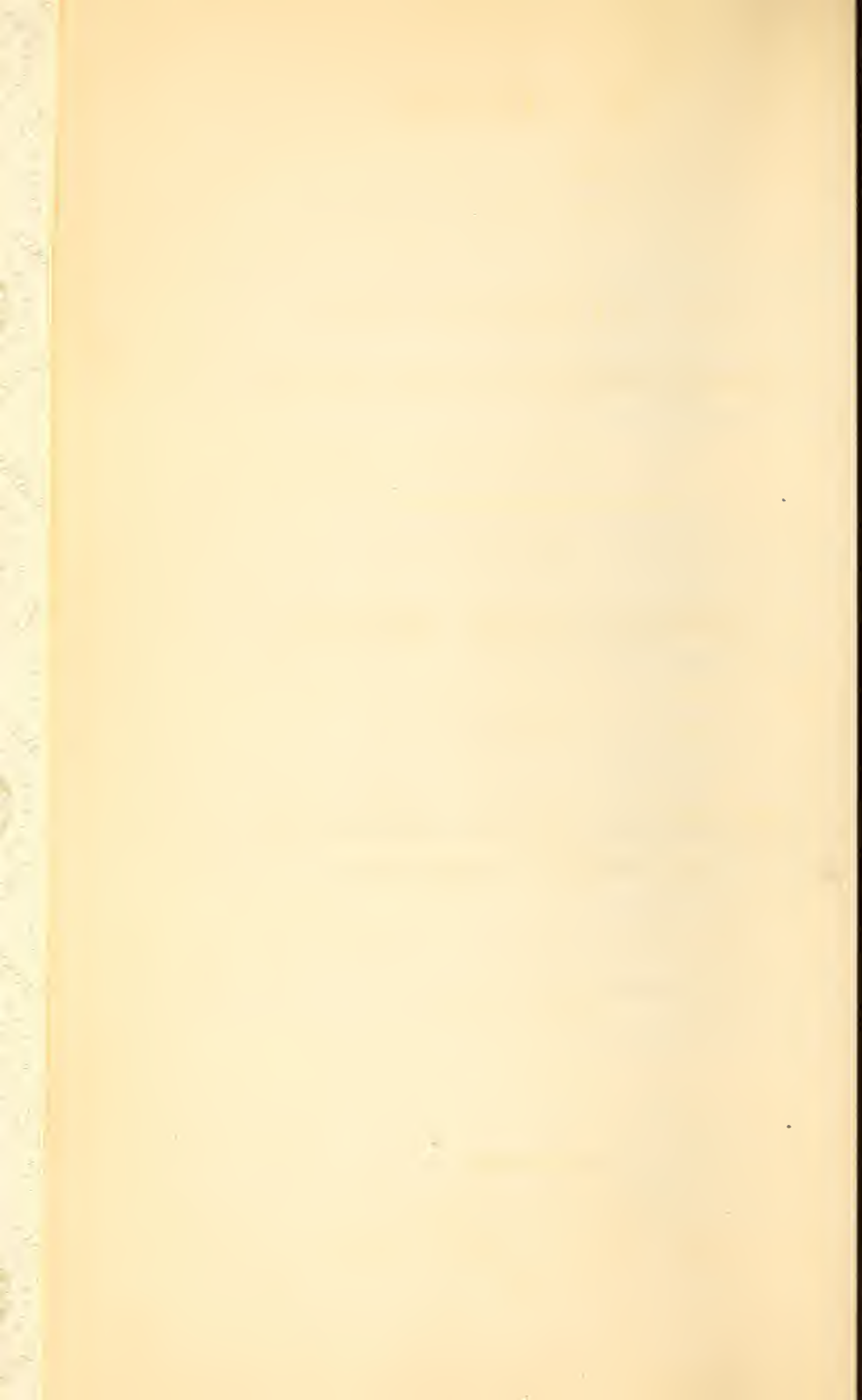
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# A LETTER

TO

N. WISEMAN, D.D.

(CALLING HIMSELF BISHOP OF MELIPOTAMUS,)

CONTAINING REMARKS ON HIS

LETTER TO MR. NEWMAN.

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BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.  
OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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SECOND EDITION.

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OXFORD,  
JOHN HENRY PARKER ;  
J. G. F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.  
1841.





## A LETTER,

&c.

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SIR,

HAVING ascertained from Mr. Newman that it is not his intention to make any reply to your Letter, (a resolution which, considering his recent labours, cannot excite surprise,) I take the liberty of offering to your notice certain remarks which the perusal of your Letter has irresistibly suggested, and I sincerely hope, that the “ plainness of speech” which, in a discussion of such importance, it is necessary to employ, will not be regarded by yourself or by others as indicating any want of respect for your abilities and attainments, or any deficiency in charity and good feeling.

You will excuse me therefore, if I seem to question your right to the title of “ bishop” which you assume, and which your adherents are willing to recognise. You, at least, cannot deny, that episcopal consecrations, performed *ostensibly* for Churches without clergy or people, but *really* for the purpose

of introducing or perpetuating *schism*, are illegitimate, and confer no canonical mission or jurisdiction<sup>a</sup>. You are aware, that such ordinations are, according to the Canons, virtually null and void; and that they do not constitute those who receive them *real* bishops—successors of the Apostles. If therefore, as is reported, you have received the form of episcopal consecration at Rome, this does not prove you to be a bishop, or excuse you for exercising episcopal and sacerdotal functions without the license, and in opposition to the authority, of your legitimate Diocesan, the Bishop of Worcester; an offence which subjects you to deposition and excommunication by the Canons received by the whole Catholic Church.

You have availed yourself with characteristic sagacity of the existing controversy, to invite public attention to those views of Romish doctrines and practices, which the leaders of your party are anxious to impress on us. I rejoice for the sake of Truth that you have stepped forward so promptly in vindication of those views. It will afford an opportunity for testing their accuracy. Circumstanced as Romanism is in this country, it is perfectly natural that its advocates should endeavour to disembarass themselves, as far as possible, of various doctrines and practices which have given serious offence. The interests of your communion are so obviously promoted by such a policy,

<sup>a</sup> Dublin Review, vol. v. p. 288, &c.

that language and sentiments are *tolerated* under your circumstances, which in a purely Romish country would be visited with severe reprobation—perhaps, might put you in the prisons of the Inquisition. The *end* for which you labour sanctifies, in the eyes of your superiors, means which they would otherwise view with jealousy and displeasure. Romanists in England have long been deeply sensible of the obstacles which are presented to their system of proselytism by the existence of general *prejudices* (as they regard them) against the superstitions of their Church. They have felt with you, that “it is exceedingly difficult to think differently from what every body about us has always been thinking and saying. It is almost impossible to stay the mind, when hurried on by the press of those behind and on either side of us.” (p. 19.) And as the general impression has been and continues to be, that superstitious and idolatrous doctrines or practices are more or less authoritatively sanctioned by the Church of Rome, you avail yourself of the opportunity afforded by Mr. Newman’s statement to that effect, to clear your Communion as far as you can from imputations so injurious to its interests, and so distressing to your own feelings as an active agent in the system of proselytism.

It will be my endeavour in the following pages to shew, that public opinion is not so grossly mistaken in these matters as you would fain have

us imagine, and that, while it would be undoubtedly most unjust to attribute superstitious and idolatrous notions or practices to those individuals of your Communion who disclaim them *for themselves*, the stain adheres most deeply to the community at large, and that the Roman is, emphatically, a *corrupt* Church.

You have, as you imagine, detected at the commencement of Mr. Newman's Letter to Dr. Jelf an untenable position, and you direct against this assumed position a vast deal of argument more or less plausible; but you have so *obviously* mistaken and misrepresented his views, that I can only account for the mistakes you have committed, by the haste with which you have rushed into this controversy.

Mr. Newman states his persuasion, that the Thirty-Nine Articles "do contain a condemnation " of the authoritative teaching of the Church of " Rome" on the subjects of Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping and Adoration of Images and Relics, the Invocation of Saints, and the Mass. He asserts indeed, and rightly asserts, (speaking *generally*,) that whereas those Articles "were written *before* " the Decrees of Trent, they were not directed " against those *Decrees*<sup>b</sup>." But still, he maintains that the Church of Rome does, even now, in some sense authoritatively teach the errors and superstitions against which the Articles are directed,

<sup>b</sup> Letter to Dr. Jelf, p. 6.



and which were held by Romanists when those Articles were compiled. His next words are, "The Church of Rome taught authoritatively before those Decrees (of Trent) as well as since. Those *expressed* her authoritative teaching, and they will *continue* to express it, while she so teaches. The simple question is, whether *taken by themselves, in their mere letter*, they express it; whether, in fact, other senses, *short of the sense conveyed in the present authoritative teaching of the Roman Church*, will not fulfil their letter, and may not even now, in point of fact, be held in that Church." (p. 6.)

The meaning of this passage is obvious. It asserts as plainly as words can do, that the *wording* of the Decrees of Trent in some points may not convey doctrines which our Articles condemn; while the *interpretation* generally given by the Romanists—their practical comment—the comment furnished by Authority exterior to the Council of Trent, is objectionable. Mr. N. in the next page explains that he is speaking of the "*popular system*" of Romanism, and soon afterwards he mentions, "the *comment* which the Church of Rome has put on them (the Decrees of Trent) in preaching and practice." (p. 9.)

Having perused all these passages, you thus address Mr. N.

"Your intention seems to be, as far as I can gather it from these and other passages in the

“ Letter, to establish a *distinction* between the  
“ doctrines defined or decreed in the General  
“ Council of Trent, and the authoritative teaching  
“ of the Roman Church.” Certainly : so far you  
have caught his meaning. He undoubtedly does  
draw a distinction between the Decrees of Trent, and  
the authorized teaching of the Church of Rome on  
these points. That is, he is of opinion, that the  
words of the Decrees of Trent “ *fall short of the*  
“ *sense conveyed in the present authoritative teaching*  
“ of the Roman Church.” (p. 6.) The Decrees are  
encumbered by a practical comment which goes far  
beyond them.

You now triumph in the persuasion that you  
have placed your opponent in an absurd position,  
and you ironically remark,

“ The existence of any such authoritative teach-  
“ ing *at variance* with the doctrines of the Triden-  
“ tine Synod, is to me a novel idea, and I think it  
“ will prove so to all Catholics.” (p. 5.)

Permit me for a moment to arrest you in this  
hasty jump to a conclusion. You have correctly  
stated, that Mr. Newman maintains a *distinction*  
between the Decrees of Trent on these subjects,  
and the present authoritative teaching of the Church  
of Rome ; but surely *distinction* does not necessarily  
imply *variance* or opposition. You have studied  
so long in the Roman schools, that this cannot  
have escaped your observation. Why then do you  
so readily assume that Mr. N. would set the present

authoritative teaching of the Roman Church “ *at variance*” with the Decrees of Trent?

You have commenced by mistaking the plain meaning of your Author, and in this mistake you steadily persist to the end of your Pamphlet. Excuse me, Sir, if, on further consideration, it appears to me that this mistake is not quite *unintentional*. One might hesitate indeed before one presumed to think, that so practised a controversialist as yourself had permitted any thing to escape from his pen inadvertently. Romish controversialists have before now found it convenient to close their own eyes, and to endeavour to close those of the public, against distinctions in which the turning points of controversy are involved. Nothing would be less in accordance with the system which has been adopted by the English Romanists in their controversies with us, than the recognition of such a distinction as that which you have assailed. The *language of the Council of Trent* has been your invariable refuge, whenever we have pressed you hard with the errors and superstitions prevalent in your Church. To this alone you would gladly direct our attention, as presenting the only exposition of doctrine authorized by all the Churches in communion with Rome. Whatever else may be held or practised amongst you, is, you would assure us, only a matter of *private* opinion or practice—*quite unauthorized*. And your Church is therefore to be held responsible for nothing but the guarded and

comparatively moderate statements of the Council of Trent. You would persuade us, that because idolatry and superstition are not pronounced *necessary to salvation* by your Church—because you are not obliged to practise them under pain of Anathema—because they do not enter into the very language of the decrees *de fide*—your Church is quite free from the offence of allowing and authorizing them. You seem to argue, that because you *may* be Romanists without superseding the worship of God by that of the Virgin Mary, the Saints, Images, and Relics, you are therefore *actually* free, generally speaking, from the guilt of so doing. Your argument goes to prove, that a man who deliberately takes the life of another, is not a murderer, provided that his act is purely voluntary, and is not done in obedience to the law of God or of the Church. This is a very convenient system of argument indeed. It enables you to avoid any discussion on the weak points of your Church, and to raise an outcry against the prejudice and bigotry of those who would venture to impute superstitions or errors to the Church of Rome generally. It will be my endeavour to shew, that there is some authoritative teaching in the Church of Rome besides that of the Council of Trent, and you will yourself afford testimony to the correctness of this position.

But I return to your pamphlet. You ask Mr. N. what his reply would be, if you should assert that an interpretation at variance with that which he believes

“ *to be the only one reconcileable with catholic truth*” is generally prevalent in the Church of England, and should thence argue, that the Church of England is “ *not to be judged by the Articles, but by* “ such authoritative teaching, and that therefore its “ doctrines, and consequently itself, are not catholic.” (p. 5.) The reply is obvious and easy. You have no reason to assume that Mr. N. believes his interpretation to be “ the only one reconcileable with “ catholic truth.” He merely advances what appears to him *a catholic interpretation*. I am of opinion that the language of the Articles, and the circumstances under which they were written, point to an interpretation somewhat different from that advanced by Mr. N. and yet I have not the least doubt that he would readily admit the orthodoxy of that interpretation, though different from his own. Your premises therefore break down; and your conclusion finishes in smoke. Supposing however, that, for the sake of argument, he were to admit, that the Articles are unsoundly interpreted by many persons, still that would not render the Church uncatholic, while such interpretations are *openly opposed* by many other persons of learning and authority, and while they are not recommended and urged by the authorities of the Church. When you can shew, that the idolatrous and superstitious doctrines and practices *authorized* in your Church are openly opposed and condemned by any influential portion of its members, we shall be rejoiced to



relieve your Communion from imputations which must, until then, adhere to it.

“ It is a serious thing,” you continue, “ to charge  
“ us with setting up the Blessed Virgin in place  
“ of the Holy Trinity, and Purgatory instead of  
“ Heaven and Hell. We naturally ask, what shall  
“ be considered sufficient *evidence* of there being an  
“ *authoritative teaching*, that supersedes the solemn  
“ and synodal Decrees of our Church, and makes us  
“ *responsible in solidum* for its lessons ?” (p. 6.) To  
this question you have yourself in part furnished  
the reply in the next page, where you say, “ To  
“ the teaching of the Roman schools, the Catechism  
“ of the Council of Trent, and the sentiments of the  
“ best writers, *I have no objections to make*. But  
“ that you should give as evidence of authoritative  
“ teaching *popular* notions and practices is certainly  
“ surprising.” You therefore admit that there *is*  
some *authoritative teaching* in the Church of Rome,  
besides that of the Decrees of Trent, and of course  
you cannot hesitate to add to the sources of such  
authoritative teaching, the decrees of Roman Pon-  
tiffs, and the actions of canonized Saints, which are  
held up *at this day* for the imitation and edification  
of the whole Roman Church. I am perfectly satis-  
fied with the concessions you have made, and I  
believe there will be little difficulty in establishing  
on these grounds the substantial correctness of the  
positions which Mr. N. has advanced. Let us  
consider those positions for a moment.

Of “ the present authoritative teaching of the “ Church of Rome,” he says, “ Instead of setting “ before the soul the Holy Trinity, and Heaven “ and Hell, it does seem to me, as *a popular system*, “ to preach the blessed Virgin, and the Saints, and “ Purgatory.”—And again, “ In the Roman schools “ we find St. Mary and the Saints the prominent “ objects of regard and dispensers of mercy, Pur- “ gatory or Indulgences the means of obtaining it.” (p. 7.)

Without doubt, “ it is a serious thing” to make this charge, and “ it is *a serious thing*” for you to hear it made. You do not relish such plain speaking. I must however entreat you to bear with me, while I proceed to establish its substantial accuracy—while I demonstrate, that the Blessed Virgin, the Saints, Indulgences, or Purgatory, are commonly and authoritatively set before the souls of your people instead of the Trinity, Heaven and Hell, and viewed as prominent objects of regard, dispensers of mercy, or means of obtaining it. After this I shall proceed to consider the remainder of your Letter.

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1. *The Blessed Virgin is authoritatively set before your souls instead of the Trinity.*

It is not meant that the Roman Church *disbelieves* the Trinity, or *never worships* the Trinity, but that the Virgin receives honours which are due only to the Trinity—honours which interfere with the sole prerogatives of the Deity. The first proof of this

shall be derived from an authoritative document which all members of your Communion are bound to reverence. I mean, the Encyclical Letter of Pope Gregory XVI. addressed in 1832 to all Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, and Bishops, in which the following passage occurs.

“ We hasten unto you, Venerable brethren, and  
 “ as a sign of our good will towards you, we  
 “ address this letter to you, on this most joyful  
 “ day, when we solemnize the festival of the tri-  
 “ umphant Assumption of the Holy Virgin into  
 “ Heaven, that she whom we have acknowledged  
 “ *as our patroness and deliverer* amongst the greatest  
 “ calamities, may *propitiously assist us while we*  
 “ *write, and by her celestial inspiration may guide us*  
 “ *to such counsels as may be most salutary to the*  
 “ *Christian Church*.”

I need scarcely remark, that the passages printed in Italics distinctly invest the Virgin with the attributes of Deity. The holy Psalmist declares, that GOD is his “ fortress and deliverer,” (Ps. cxliv. 2.)—his “ help and deliverer,” (Ps. xl. 17.) The Pope regards the Virgin Mary as *his* “ patron and deliverer.” The Prophet Isaiah teaches us, that “ counsel” is one of the seven gifts of the HOLY

\* Ut quam patronam ac sospitam inter maximas quasque calamitates persensimus, ipsa et scribentibus ad vos nobis adstet propitia, mentemque nostram cœlesti afflatu suo in ea inducat consilia, quæ Christiano gregi futura sint quàm maximè salutaria.



SPIRIT, (Is. xl. 2.) The Roman Church herself prays in the sacrament of Confirmation, "Emitte  
" in eos (confirmandos) septiformem Spiritum tuum  
" Paraclitum de cœlis, Spiritum sapientiæ et  
" intellectus, Spiritum *consilii* et fortitudinis," &c.  
(Pontifical. Rom. De Confirm.) I turn to the first treatise on the Trinity by one of your Professors of Theology that comes to my hand, and I there find that the *Divinity* of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is proved amongst other things by the fact, that the power of giving grace, of giving spiritual gifts, is ascribed to them in holy Scripture. (See Tournely de Trinitate, p. 384, 499.) And yet, notwithstanding all this, the Pope ascribes confidently to the *Virgin Mary* the very powers which Scripture and tradition give to the Holy Ghost.

And now, Sir, perilous and idolatrous as such sentiments are, have they ever once been publicly objected to by a single member of your Communion? Has any one of you ever *dared* to protest against this ascription of the attributes of Deity to a creature? Will you yourself venture to utter a word in opposition to it? I am afraid this would be rather too much to expect from any "Vicar  
" Apostolic." And why is it that the whole body of your Communion have remained silent, and refrained from uttering a word in censure of language so plainly savouring of heresy and idolatry? Why is it, that even those amongst you who may disapprove of such statements, have

remained mute and confounded? Because they emanate from *Authority*—an Authority to which you are obliged to submit. You have asked for some proof that the Virgin Mary is *authoritatively* put forward in your Church instead of the Trinity; and I believe you have received a sufficient answer.

I pass over another passage of the same revolting character at the conclusion of the Encyclical Letter, and proceed to other proofs which will further establish the character of the authoritative teaching in your Church. You will not deny the authority of the Litany of the blessed Virgin, printed at the end of the Roman Catechism compiled by Cardinal Bellarmine, and to the repetition of which, Indulgences were attached by Sixtus V, Benedict XIII, and Pius VII. At the conclusion of this is the following prayer.

“ We fly to *thy protection*, Holy Mother of God,  
 “ *despise not our prayers* in our necessities, but  
 “ *deliver us* at all times *from all evils*, glorious and  
 “ blessed Virgin<sup>d</sup>.” The holy Psalmist placed his trust in God. “ THE LORD will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.” (Ps. ix. 9.) He consoled the afflicted of Israel by the hope that THE LORD “ will regard the prayer of the

<sup>d</sup> Sub tuum præsidium confugimus, sancta Dei Genetrix, nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus nostris; sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper, Virgo gloriosa et benedicta.

destitute, and not despise their prayer." (Ps. cii. 17.) Our Lord himself taught us to pray to our Heavenly Father to "deliver us from all evil." And yet, in spite of all this, the Popes grant indulgences for the repetition of prayers which express the very same sort of confidence in the Virgin as the Scriptures teach us to feel towards God.

I will here mention another prayer to the Virgin, to the repetition of which Pius VI. in 1786 granted Indulgences. It is as follows: "Condescend to  
 " permit me to praise thee, sacred Virgin. *Grant*  
 " *me strength against thine enemies.* Blessed be  
 " God in his Saints<sup>e</sup>." The "Stabat Mater," which has Indulgences annexed to its repetition by Innocent XI, is full of similar petitions<sup>f</sup>. But I will not dwell further on this branch of the subject.

You wish for some proofs from your "best writers," or any of them, that the Virgin Mary is presented instead of the Trinity, and that she is regarded as the dispenser of mercy. You will readily admit the eminent learning and piety of Cardinal Bona. Hear then the following prayer extracted from his writings.

" Oh most sweet Virgin Mary, Mother of God  
 " and our Lord Jesus Christ, *refuge of sinners,*  
 " and *mother of Mercy,* I commit myself this day  
 " and evermore to thy peculiar *protection* with most

<sup>e</sup> Bouvier, *Traité des Indulgences*, p. 244.

<sup>f</sup> *Ib.* p. 245.

“ humble devotion. Place me near unto thee, and  
 “ *protect me from all my enemies visible and invisible.*  
 “ *Say unto my soul, I AM THY SALVATION.* Direct  
 “ me thy servant in all my ways and actions. Con-  
 “ sole me in all my griefs and afflictions. Defend  
 “ and preserve me from all evils and dangers.  
 “ Turn thy face unto me when the end of my  
 “ life shall come; and may *thy consolation*, in  
 “ that tremendous hour, rejoice my spirit. *Thou*  
 “ *canst do all that thou wilt in heaven and earth,*  
 “ *nor can any resist thy will*, for thou obtainest  
 “ from the Almighty whatever thou seekest. Hear  
 “ therefore and *receive my prayers*, and despise  
 “ me not when I confide in thy mercy. Behold  
 “ *I fall down before thee*, most gracious Virgin,  
 “ *I fall down and worship* IN THEE *thy Son*, and  
 “ I implore thy suffrages to obtain that my sins  
 “ may be blotted out, to reconcile the heart of thy  
 “ Son to my heart, that He may possess me, and  
 “ make me a man according unto his heart <sup>g</sup>.”

If this prayer does not ascribe to the blessed Virgin the Divine attribute of “dispensing mercy,” I know not what words can do so. She is addressed exactly in the terms which we should use in pray-

<sup>g</sup> “ In hora illa tremenda consolatio tua lætificet spiritum meum. Omnia potes quæcumque vis in cælo et in terra, nec est qui possit resistere voluntati tuæ. . . . Ecce procido coram te, benignissima Virgo, procido et adoro in te Filium tuum,” &c. Jo. Bonæ Presbyt. Cardinalis, Horologium Asceticum, §. 2. Opuscula Spiritualia, t. i. p. 13.

ing to the second or third Persons of the Holy Trinity. We see in it the same feeling of confidence in the protection of the Being addressed—the same degree of worship which is offered to Jesus Christ. “I fall down and worship IN THEE “thy Son.” *The Virgin Mary is worshipped with the honour due to God!* You will not, I venture to say, express any disapprobation of this prayer, any more than of the sentiments of Gregory XVI. or of the authorized and indulgenced prayers which I have cited above. You will be satisfied to say, that such things are not enforced upon your consciences by the Decrees of the Council of Trent. Then if they are not, your guilt is so much the greater in practising them. By your own confession, such idolatrous invocations are not compulsory on you. They are therefore *voluntary*; and you are wholly without excuse or justification. It is in vain to allege that they are not universally approved or received. What *proofs* can you afford of this assertion? When have you yourself protested against them? Who amongst you lifts up his voice against them? You content yourselves with *general disclaimers* of superstition and idolatry, but you will never venture to lay your finger on any specific case amongst the thousands which are authorized amongst you.

But I have not concluded this branch of the subject yet. I have to adduce a third branch of evidence, the authority of which you, at least, will scarcely deny.



I allude to the “Lives of St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Francis de Girolamo, &c. whose canonization took place on Trinity Sunday, May 26, 1839.” Of this publication you are the *reputed Editor*<sup>b</sup>, and if you are unwilling to avow your connection with it, you cannot hesitate to admit the authority attached to the actions and sentiments of *Saints* recently canonized, after the strictest and minutest investigation of their lives and conduct by the highest tribunals in the Roman Church—actions and sentiments which had been brought under the special notice of those tribunals, and which are now published (probably by yourself) for the general edification and imitation of Roman Catholics. Let us then see what is thus authorized by your Church. I extract the following from the Life of St. Alphonsus Liguori.

“His loving patroness, our blessed Lady, rewarded his zeal in the cause of charity and devotion by appearing to him in the sight of an immense crowd of people collected in the Church of Foggia to listen to a discourse upon his *favorite subject*, the intercession and patronage of Mary. From her countenance a ray of light,

<sup>b</sup> At the end of the Catholic Directory and Annual Register for the year 1841, I find in the Catalogue of Books of “F. A. Little, Catholic Bookseller and Stationer,” the following:—

WORKS BY THE REV. DR. WISEMAN.

.....

The Lives of St. Alphonsus Liguori, &c.

“ like that of the sun, was reflected upon the face  
“ of *her devout servant*, which was seen by all the  
“ people, who cried out ‘ *a miracle! a miracle!*’  
“ and *recommended themselves with great fervour and*  
“ *many tears to the Mother of God*; and many  
“ women of abandoned life were seized with such  
“ intense sorrow, that they mounted upon a plat-  
“ form in the church, and began to discipline  
“ themselves and cry aloud for mercy; and then  
“ leaving the church, retired to the house of  
“ penitents in that city. Alphonsus, in his judi-  
“ cial attestation, deposed, that during the Sermon,  
“ he, together with the assembled audience, saw the  
“ countenance of the blessed Virgin resembling  
“ that of a girl of fourteen or fifteen years of age,  
“ who turned from side to side, as was witnessed  
“ by every one present<sup>i</sup>.”

“ Whilst he was preaching on the patronage of  
“ the blessed Virgin, and exciting his hearers to  
“ *recur with confidence to her in all their wants*, he  
“ suddenly exclaimed, ‘ O, you are too cold in  
“ *praying to our blessed Lady! I will pray to her for*  
“ *you.*’ He knelt down in the attitude of prayer,  
“ with his eyes raised to heaven, and was seen by  
“ all present lifted more than a foot from the  
“ ground, and *turned towards a statue of the blessed*  
“ *Virgin* near the pulpit. The countenance of our

<sup>i</sup> Lives of St. Alphonsus Liguori, &c. p. 12. Dolman, London, 1839.

“ Lady (the statue!) darted forth beams of light, “ which shone upon the face of the ecstatic Alphon-  
“ sus. This spectacle lasted about five or six  
“ minutes, during which the people cried out,  
“ ‘ *Mercy, mercy! a miracle, a miracle!*’ and every  
“ one burst into a flood of tears. But the Saint  
“ rising up, exclaimed in a loud voice, ‘ Be glad,  
“ *for the blessed Virgin has granted your prayer*<sup>k</sup>.’ ”

Now, Sir, with every disposition to avoid uncharitable or general imputations of idolatry, and to allow the sincerity of those amongst you who disclaim it, I cannot refrain from expressing to you the horror and amazement which such a scene inspires. Here is a *Saint* of your Church—a Saint canonized only two years ago, and after the most rigid investigation of all his actions by the highest authorities amongst you.—This Saint excites his hearers to “ recur with confidence to the Virgin in “ all their wants,” as if she were a Deity. He follows this up by kneeling down and “ *praying*” to the Virgin.—Observe, not *seeking her intercession*, but *praying* to her. *A miracle* is wrought to sanction this impiety; and that nothing may be wanting to complete the abomination of the scene, this miracle is wrought, *while the Saint is in an attitude of adoration before the image of the Virgin*, and while that image itself becomes, as it were, *animated*, and testifies the presence of the Virgin within it! This is the teaching which you place before the members

<sup>k</sup> Ib. p. 27.



of your Church. This is the teaching which your Saints inculcate—your Cardinals and your Pope approve and authorize—and which you yourself print and publish for the edification of the faithful! But I pass on to another example of the same teaching.

“ He established confraternities amongst his flock, as a means of inducing them to frequent the Sacraments, and to hear the word of God, and maintained the spirit of their foundation by frequently preaching to them; and one evening, whilst he was preaching during a retreat to the confraternity of gentlemen at Arienzo *upon the patronage of the Blessed Virgin*, he was on a sudden wrapt in ecstasy, and his countenance shone with such splendour, that the whole Church was lighted up with unusual brightness; and he exclaimed, ‘ See, the blessed Virgin is come to dispense graces amongst us; let us pray to her, and we shall obtain whatever we ask<sup>1</sup>.’ ”

When Moses descended from the mount with these words of God, “ I am the Lord thy God. *Thou shalt have none other Gods but me,*” the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come nigh him. Liguori is invested with an equally miraculous splendour, while he declares that the Virgin is a Goddess—while he asserts that she “ dispenses graces,” or is invested with the attributes of the Deity, and while he admonishes the

<sup>1</sup> Ib. p. 35.

people to address her as an *all-powerful* Being! Which would you have us believe? Or is this fable intended to turn the Scripture itself into ridicule and contempt, and to afford Infidels the means of opposing Revelation to Revelation, and arguing the absurdity of the whole from its contradictions? I turn to the life of another of your recently canonized Saints, St. Francis di Girolamo, where, after some mention of his love of *Christ*, the following passage occurs.

“ In like manner he was *tenderly devoted to our blessed Lady*. For twenty-two years he preached “ a Sermon in her praise and honour *every week*. “ To youth especially, it was his custom to recommend this devotion *as the surest preservative of innocence, and the best remedy against sin*; saying “ that *one could hardly be saved* who felt no “ devotion towards the Mother of God. Mary was “ *his counsellor* in doubt, *his comfort* in toil, *his strength* in all his enterprises, *his refuge* in danger “ and distress. He experienced an inexpressible “ delight whenever he recited the Rosary of our “ blessed Mother.” Lives of Liguori, &c. p. 101.

I leave this passage to speak for itself. It requires no comment. If ever idolatrous reverence was felt for a created being, it certainly was in this case; and yet this is an example which the authorities of your Church hold up for general admiration! With such facts before the public, you have the confidence to ask for *evidence* that the Virgin

and the Saints are set up instead of the Holy Trinity. Can you ask for better evidence than that which has been given? I have not quoted antiquated documents—I have not cited a thousand idolatrous passages from your books of popular devotion and other unauthorized sources—I have not referred to “local abuses” or “popular superstitions,” but to the highest and most undeniable *authorities* in your Church. They convict you of all that has been alleged against you, and you may writhe beneath that conviction, but you cannot escape from it, except by shewing what it *is impossible to shew*, that the errors and idolatries which I have pointed out, have been resisted and protested against in your community.

2. The Saints are authoritatively placed before you instead of the Trinity. That is, they share the honours of the Deity—they receive honours which are only due to God.

In proof of this I again appeal to the Encyclical Letter of Gregory XVI, where, near the conclusion, he thus addresses all the Bishops of the Roman Obedience.

“ We will also *earnestly beseech* with *humble*  
“ *prayers* from the Prince of the Apostles, Peter,  
“ and from his co-Apostle Paul, *that you may stand*  
“ *as a wall*, that no other foundation be laid but  
“ that which has been laid. Relying on this  
“ delightful hope, we trust that the author and

“ finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ, will at length  
 “ console us in all our tribulations. (Id et ab  
 “ apostolorum principe Petro, et ab ejus co-apostolo  
 “ Paulo humili prece efflagitemus, ut stetis omnes  
 “ pro muro, ne fundamentum aliud ponatur præter  
 “ id quod positum est. Hâc jucundâ spe freti,  
 “ confidimus auctorem consummatoremque fidei  
 “ Jesum Christum consolaturum tandem esse nos  
 “ omnes in tribulationibus, &c.”)

To avoid mistakes it may be necessary to observe, that the “ foundation” here alluded to is not the Saviour, but the established doctrine and discipline of the Roman Church, the dangers of which deeply excite the Pontiff’s grief and alarm. In this passage then St. Peter and St. Paul are distinctly invested with the attributes of Divine Providence. They are supposed to give grace and power to the Bishops—to confirm them in the faith. *No prayer whatever is addressed to any Person of the blessed Trinity.* No supplications are offered to our Lord, but it is *hoped* that in consequence of the prayers addressed to the Virgin Mary and the Apostles Peter and Paul, he will console his Church. St. Mary, Peter, and Paul, *guard* and *protect* the Church—our Lord *consoles* it! Such is the system taught *by authority*.

Do you wish for further evidence? It shall be immediately supplied.

Pius VII. by his decree of the 28th April, 1807,

granted 300 days of indulgence to all who should devoutly use the following invocations<sup>m</sup>.

“ Jesus, *Joseph and Mary*, I offer to you my heart  
“ and my soul.

“ Jesus, *Joseph and Mary*, assist me in my last  
“ agony.

“ Jesus, *Joseph and Mary*, may my soul expire in  
“ peace with you.”

This, Sir, is a new Trinity, wholly unknown to Scripture or to Catholic Tradition.

Pius VI. by a Brief dated 2d October, 1795, granted an Indulgence of 100 days to the faithful who repeat the following prayer to their guardian Angel.

“ Angel of God, who art my guardian, enlighten  
“ me who am committed to thee with heavenly  
“ piety, guard, direct, and govern me. Amen.”  
Bouvier, p. 248.

Pius VII. by his Rescript of September 21st, 1802, granted a year's Indulgence, applicable to the dead, to every Catholic priest, who should recite the following prayer.

“ O, holy Joseph, guardian and father of Virgins,  
“ to whose faithful care Christ Jesus, who was  
“ Innocence itself, and Mary, Virgin of Virgins,  
“ was committed, I beseech and pray thee by both  
“ these dear pledges *Jesus and Mary*, to preserve me  
“ from all uncleanness, and make me ever most  
“ chastely to serve *Jesus and Mary*, with an un-  
“ defiled mind, a pure heart, and a chaste body.

<sup>m</sup> Bouvier, *Traité des Indulgences*, p. 226.



“ Amen. (Te per hoc utrumque charissimum  
“ pignus Jesum et Mariam obsecro et obtestor,  
“ ut me ab omni immunditiâ præservatum, mente  
“ incontaminatâ, puro corde, et casto corpore Jesu  
“ et Mariæ semper facias castissimè famulari.  
“ Amen.)” Bouvier, p. 265.

In this prayer Joseph is addressed as a *Deity*—a Being who has the power of bestowing divine grace, and of enabling Christians to serve God. The Son of God is made a sort of *Mediator* between Joseph and his worshippers; and, in fine, the service of Christians is supposed to be divided between Jesus and Mary! And yet this is a prayer sanctioned by the highest authority in your Church, and unscrupulously published in your most approved practical Treatises on Indulgences.

I shall only extract, in addition, the following prayer from one of your best and most approved Authors, Cardinal Bona.

“ Holy Angels, seals of the Divine likeness, full  
“ of wisdom, perfect in beauty, be present with me  
“ and defend me from the assaults of evil spirits,  
“ from the frauds and snares of the enemy. Inflamm  
“ me with that fire which the Lord sent on earth,  
“ and which he desired to burn vehemently. Ye  
“ seven Spirits which stand before the Lord ever  
“ prepared to do his bidding, succour a wanderer  
“ in this vale of tears. Cleanse me from all  
“ filthiness, and infuse into my mind the splendour  
“ of the saints, that all earthly matter being con-  
“ sumed, I may burn wholly with divine love, and

“ become one spirit with God for ever. Thou St.  
 “ Michael, most glorious Prince of the celestial  
 “ army, helper of the people of God, receiver of  
 “ the elect souls, who hast fought with the Dragon  
 “ and conquered, come to my assistance in this  
 “ doubtful battle, which I, unarmed and feeble as  
 “ I am, must wage with a most powerful foe . . . You,  
 “ ye other saints of God, to whose patronage I have  
 “ intrusted myself, and whose feast is this day  
 “ celebrated, assist me a miserable sinner sitting in  
 “ darkness and the shadow of death. Dissolve the  
 “ bonds of my captivity, &c.” Bona, Oper. Spiritu-  
 tual. t i. p. 13, 14, 15.

I believe it would be needless to adduce any more proofs that Saints and Angels receive in your Church honours which are only due to God.

3. I am now to shew, that your Church regards Purgatory or Indulgences as “ means of obtaining  
 “ mercy,” and that they are preached “ instead of  
 “ Heaven and Hell.” Do not suppose that I mean to assert, that Heaven and Hell are not believed or preached amongst you. I only contend, that Indulgences (which are connected with Purgatory) are made *to take the place*, which Scripture and Catholic tradition assign only to considerations connected with the eternal state; that they are presented to the consciences and the hopes of your people, to influence them to the performance of duties which ought only to be urged on the motives of the love and fear of God. This is

what we complain of. We see good works urged amongst you on motives which obscure and interfere with the grand and simple motives which Revelation places before us. When *we* would excite our brethren to the performance of good works, we can but say to them, “Yield yourselves unto God, *as those that are alive from the dead,*” and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” (Rom. vi. 13.) We can but quote to them our Saviour’s words, “If ye love me, keep my commandments . . . . He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him.” (John xiv. 15—21.) And again, “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither the rust and moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt. vi. 20, 21.) These are the only motives which Scripture and Tradition place before us. Our works are to be done simply in reliance on God’s assistance, and with a view to shew forth our love and obedience to Him, without which we should forfeit eternal life. Not so with you. Every good work has in your eyes a very different sort of value. It is a satisfaction for sins, it is a means of obtaining so many days or years of Indulgence from the tortures of Purgatory.

Are your people to be excited to visit the sick,



to give alms to the poor, to hear mass, to repent of their sins and confess to a priest, to receive the holy Eucharist, to pray for the extirpation of heresies, the propagation of the Catholic faith, and for the Church generally? You promise them a *plenary Indulgence* on certain feast-days in the year<sup>n</sup>. Do you wish to excite the people to repeat devotional offices during their life, and to recommend their souls to God at the hour of death? You promise them Indulgences. (Ib. p. 185.) Is it your desire that they should instruct their children, relations, or servants, in the Christian doctrine? You offer them two hundred days of Indulgence for doing so. (p. 185.) They meditate on our Saviour's passion to gain a hundred days of Indulgence. (p. 186.) They examine their consciences, and repent of their sins, resolve to amend them, and recite the Lord's prayer, to gain the same amount of Indulgence. (p. 186.) They accompany the holy Sacrament when it is brought to the sick; endeavour to bring back into the right way those who have wandered from it; and practise other good works in honour of our Lord. And for what reason? To gain an Indulgence of a hundred days. (p. 191.) Is it considered desirable to promote the spirit of prayer? One indulgence is promised to all those who instruct the people to meditate or to offer prayer, and another to all who offer prayer every day for half or a quarter of an

<sup>n</sup> Bouvier, *Traité des Indulgences*, p. 183, 184.

hour. (p. 213.) In short, there is not a good work or a devotional practice amongst you, which is not presented as a means of obtaining *Indulgences*. Your whole system depends on the popular belief in *Indulgences*, and the popular wish to obtain them. Your confraternities, your charitable and religious works of all kinds, are vitally dependent on them. The promise of future glory, the desire to shew love and gratitude to Him who redeemed us with His own blood, are insufficient to excite your people to the discharge of Christian duties. They require the stimulant of *Indulgences* to rouse them into activity. And what *are* those *Indulgences*? Which of the Fathers ever wrote a treatise on *Indulgences*, or even mentioned them? Were they known to Augustine, to Chrysostom, to Gregory, or to any of the Fathers for a thousand years after Christ? You are well aware that there is a profound silence in Christian Antiquity on this subject; that the only *Indulgences* known for a thousand years were *remission of canonical punishments imposed in this life*. And this *novelty* it is, which now constitutes the moving power of your religion, and which usurps amongst your people that influence which Revelation assigns to Heaven and Hell—to the love and the fear of God.

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Having now completed the first part of my task, and shewn that the public is not so grossly

mistaken as you would persuade us, in the view which it takes of the superstitions prevalent amongst you, I return to the consideration of your Letter.

You assure us, that throughout the whole course of your residence in the Roman schools you “never heard a word that could lead you to suppose that our blessed Lady and the Saints are, or ought to be, the ‘prominent objects of regard,’ or could be ‘dispensers of mercy,’ nor that ‘Purgatory or Indulgences are the means of obtaining it,’” &c.; and you have, as you say, “always there heard and taught exactly the contrary.” (p. 9.) In a *certain sense*, perhaps, the Professors in the Roman University may not maintain those doctrines; but I would ask, whether you have ever heard any contradiction offered by them to the scandalous and blasphemous positions which have been above cited from authorized sources? Until you have shewn this, they and you yourself must be held responsible for those positions.

You argue, from the *shortness* of the Treatises on Invocation of Saints and Purgatory in your theological course, that there could have been no intention to supersede the worship of the Trinity by the one, and the preaching of Heaven and Hell by the other. This seems to me a very bad argument, for surely we are not to judge of the practical *importance* of a doctrine by the *extent* which its discussion occupies. A Treatise on the Trinity involves many

difficult questions, and therefore occupies more space than one on the Invocation of Saints. Yet it does not follow that the Trinity itself is practically more worshipped and honoured than the Saints.

What has been just observed applies equally to the argument from your Catechisms. The Trinity, Incarnation, and Creed, may be, as you say, the principle articles of instruction. (p. 13.) They may occupy *most space*, and yet the worship of the Virgin, and the Saints, and Purgatory, may practically be “the main subjects” put before the popular mind.

You are indignant at Mr. N.’s assertion, that, with reference to Purgatory, “the main idea really “encouraged by Rome is, that temporal punishment “is a substitute for Hell in the case of the unholy,” and you characterize this doctrine ascribed to you as “wicked and fiendish.” (p. 14.) What, Sir, are you not well aware, that, according to your Church, “the unholy,” those who are guilty of *mortal sin*, are, by the sacrament of Penance, *relieved from the punishment of Hell*, and made subject only to *temporal penalties*? It is your doctrine that *Hell* is the penalty annexed to mortal sins which have not been remitted by the sacrament of Penance, and that *temporal punishment* in this life or the next, follows sins which have been thus remitted. I shall not occupy your time in attempting to prove what is the well-known doctrine of your Church—a doctrine which was evidently in Mr. N.’s mind, when he

employed the expressions which have excited your wrath.

Mr. N. has quoted from the Catechism of Trent the following passage, which, he says, “ expresses “ the *existing Romish doctrine*.”

“ There is a purgatorial fire, in which the souls “ of the pious are *tormented* for a certain time and “ expiated, in order that an entrance may lie open “ to them into their eternal home, into which “ nothing defiled enters.”

Your reply is, that “ it is unnatural and a fallacy” to “ put the Catechism *at variance* with the Council “ which ordered it to be drawn up”—that we must suppose persons who had been members of the Council “ deliberately *contradicting* their own acts,” &c. Now, Sir, the *fallacy*, permit me to say, is *all your own*. Mr. N. never adduced the Catechism of Trent as “ *at variance*” with the Council, or as “ *contradicting*” the Council. He merely adduces it as expressing “ the existing Romish doctrine,” which he most correctly *distinguishes* from the Decrees of Trent, without meaning that there is any *opposition* between the two. He asserts nothing more than what you yourself admit—that it (the Catechism) “ employs *the usual language* in which “ a doctrine is spoken of in the Church” of Rome. (p. 15.) That it is invested with *authority* in your Church you cannot deny, though it may not be binding on you in the same sense as the Decrees of Trent.



You quote the Theology of Perrone to shew, that Romanists are at *liberty* to speculate on the nature of Purgatory notwithstanding the Decrees of Trent. He remarks, "that questions relating to the place, "duration, and quality of the punishment there "inflicted, do not pertain to the *catholic faith*, or are "not defined by the Church." I have not Perrone's work in my possession; but I would ask, whether he does not add to the above statement, that the doctrine of a purging material fire is the general and most probable opinion of theologians? Perhaps in the next edition of your Letter you would furnish us with the entire passage. This however is clear, that "the language of every (Roman) Catholic "theologian" goes rather further than you would wish us to think. I turn to Bellarmine first. His words are, "It is *certain*, secondly, that one punishment of Purgatory is the want of the Divine vision. . . . It is *certain*, thirdly, that besides this "punishment, there is also some other, which theologians call punishment of sense (*pœnam sensus*). "It is *certain*, fourthly, that there is in Purgatory, "as also in Hell, a punishment of fire, whether that "fire be understood literally or metaphorically, and "whether it signifies punishment of sense, or of "loss, as some prefer to say. (*Certum est, quarto, "in Purgatorio, sicut etiam in Inferno, esse pœnam "ignis, sive iste ignis accipiatur propriè, sive metaphoricè, et sive significat pœnam sensus, sive "damni ut quidam volunt*).'' Bellarminus de Pur-

gatorio, lib. ii. c. 10. I am afraid, Sir, that the liberty here allowed will not afford any great consolation to those who are fearful of the torments of Purgatory. Whatever they be, they are, it seems, the same sort of punishments as those of *Hell* ! And this too is a matter of *certainty* !

The next chapter of Bellarmine's Treatise is thus headed, "Cap. x. Ignem purgatorii ipse corporeum;" and commences thus : " It is the general judgment of theologians, that *the fire* (of Purgatory) *is truly and properly such, and of the same species with our elementary fire*, (communis theologorum sententia est, verum et proprium esse ignem, et ejusdem speciei cum nostro elementari.) Which judgment is not indeed *de fide*, because it has no where been defined by the Church ; yea, in the Council of Florence the Greeks openly professed that they did not admit *fire* in Purgatory, and yet in the definition made in the last session, the existence of Purgatory is defined, without any mention of fire. *Yet it is the most probable doctrine.* (Tamen est sententia probabilissima.)"

In chapter xiv. De gravitate pœnarum, we find, that " the Fathers constantly teach that the pains of Purgatory are *most fierce* (atrocissimas,)" and that " no pains of this life can be compared to them, (et cum illis nullas pœnas hujus vitæ comparandas ;)" and that " in a certain sense *all* (writers and others) admit, that the pains of Purgatory are greater than those of *this* life."

Such, Sir, is the doctrine of the Father of your modern theologians, “the prince of controversialists,” as he is styled by your friend Mr. Phillipps; and this doctrine still continues to be that of your theologians, as Delahogue declares, when speaking of questions on the subject of Purgatory, he says, “whether they (souls in Purgatory) be shut up in some dark prison, or *be tortured* by some fire, as *theologians commonly hold*, (vel igne aliquo torqueantur, ut communiter sentiunt theologi)” — “cannot be certainly affirmed.” Delahogue, *De Pœnitentia*, p. 304.

I need not proceed further with citations from your theologians. Those will suffice to shew, that although the doctrine of a material and *torturing* fire in Purgatory is not an article of faith in your Church, it is by far the most probable and popular opinion, and I very much doubt whether you could point out any instances of writers or preachers in your Communion maintaining in public the *contrary doctrine*. You would yourself, I doubt not, have been regarded as a heretic, or as a person “suspected of heresy,” had you ventured to maintain in Italy, that the punishment of Purgatory is not “material fire,” but the “want of the Divine Vision.” The general belief and doctrine is quite opposed to such notions, and this is what is obviously meant, when it is asserted, that the doctrine of the Catechism of Trent with regard to Purgatory “expresses the *existing Romish doctrine*.”



I am wearied, and I fear my readers will be wearied, with a refutation of all your errors and false-reasonings, but I must continue the ungracious task.

You send us to the statement of the Catechism of the Council of Trent with reference to *Images*, and ask, whether such statement is “an authoritative teaching which *supersedes* the Decree of Trent,” or “sanctions on the subject of images more than *it warrants*.” The Catechism, as quoted by you, says, “As the enemy of mankind, by his wiles and deceits, seeks to pervert every the most holy institution, should the faithful happen *at all* to offend in this particular, the pastor, in accordance with the Decree of the Council of Trent, will use every exertion in his power to correct such an abuse, and when occasion offers, *will explain the Decree itself to the people, &c.*” (p. 16, 17.) Certainly, Sir, the authority of the Decree of Trent is here recognised. No one ever for a moment doubted that it was fully received in your Churches. But let me observe, that no definition whatever is given of what *really are abuses*. The people may, according to the doctrine of Alexander de Hales, Thomas Aquinas, Cajetan, Bonaventura, Marsilius, Almayn, Carthusianus, Capreolus, Vasquez, and a host of your most approved writers, pay the worship of *Latria* or *Divine honours* to the images of Christ. (Bellarm. De Imag. ii. 20.) They may, with St. Thomas Aquinas, (Summa, 3. 25. 4.) and

the Schoolmen, worship the true Cross or its image with the adoration of *Latria*. They may believe in the miraculous powers of the images and relics of the Saints ;—may make pilgrimages to them—may carry them in procession during plague and other public calamities ; and may put their trust in them. But the Catechism of Trent does not say a word against such idolatries and superstitions. It merely refers to the Decrees of Trent, which are equally silent ; and the *explanation* of those Decrees which the Priest is to give, may be *in exact accordance with the errors which I have mentioned*. So far for any safeguard supposed to be furnished by this Catechism ! You refer us to what the Catechism says of the “ worship of Saints.” (p. 17.) Undoubtedly it recognises what all your well-informed theologians *theoretically* hold—that Divine worship or *Latria* is not due to the Saints. No man in his senses would gravely maintain such an absurdity. And yet notwithstanding this, the Virgin and the Saints *do practically* (and *by authority* too) receive honours due only to God.

You call (p. 17.) for “ the testimony of all or “ any of your best writers,” in favour of “ preaching the blessed Virgin, the Saints, and Purgatory,” instead of “ the Holy Trinity, Heaven, “ and Hell.” This challenge has been answered, and if it be necessary, I can easily add a thousand other proofs. Be it observed too, that it has been answered *not merely* from the “ statements of

“travellers,” or “the assertions of the great body of writers against you,” or “popular notions of Roman Catholics;” (p. 19.) but from authoritative documents, from your own approved theologians and writers.

Yes, Sir, we *do* hold that the “tacit sanction,” (p. 20.) which the members of your Churches give to the idolatries and superstitions alluded to, is the deepest stain upon them. You are surrounded by notions and practices which every enlightened Christian must most deeply disapprove. You see them sanctioned by the highest authorities in your Church, greedily received by the people, and endangering their salvation. And yet you give them your “tacit sanction.” Which of you dares to uplift his voice, and warn the people against the delusions in which they are involved? No! This would be too great a triumph to those whom you call “heretics,” and therefore you gently and in *general terms* warn them against superstitions. You never enter into particulars, or denounce this or that doctrine or practice as contrary to sound religion. We praise your caution; but is this Christian honesty? Is this the duty of Bishops? Is this even the best mode of relieving your Church from the imputations which are now thrown upon it?

You enquire whether “*any* extent of corruption or sanctioning error by the members of a Church, if at variance with its acknowledged formularies,

“ deprives the Church of the benefit of these, and  
“ warrants its being treated as having admitted a  
“ new faith?” (p. 20.) I must profess, that to the question thus *broadly* put, none but an affirmative answer can be returned. I suppose you would not yourself deny, that a Church which openly rejected the doctrines of the Trinity, or the Divinity of Christ, even though it admitted the Nicene Creed, would be heretical. But we do not contemplate any such paradoxical case, in maintaining that the doctrines and practices taught and received by authority in your Church, *go far beyond the wording of the Decrees of Trent*. We do not pretend that the doctrines generally received amongst you *supersede* those Decrees. All that is meant is, that they *are* your doctrines, and that you have no right to fall back on the wording of the Decrees of Trent, as if you were responsible only for *them*. We cannot permit you to escape so easily.

It is in vain therefore that you attempt to involve in self-contradictions, (p. 20.) those who admit that the Western Church before the Reformation had not ceased to be a true Church, and yet maintain that the existing Roman Church sanctions and authorizes idolatrous and erroneous doctrines. There is no inconsistency in their views. They allow that the Western Church before the Reformation was deeply culpable; that most serious corruptions had become prevalent; yet still they do not deny her claim to be a part of Christ's Church,

though a corrupt one ; because there had been no *definition of errors, and no imposition of idolatries*, by any authority to which every member of the Church was bound to submit his own judgment. In like manner, though they see much that is erroneous, and objectionable, and presumptuous in the Decrees of the Council of Trent ; and though they see idolatries and grievous errors sanctioned by the authorities of your Church, and generally received ; still they are not prepared to say, that the Churches in communion with Rome have ceased to be Christian, because it seems to them that *individuals* may and do continue in your Communion without practising or holding what is contrary to the Articles of the Christian faith. But notwithstanding this, they consider your Churches as *corrupt*, and as most deeply culpable in sanctioning corruption ; and they hold you *responsible* for the errors and idolatries against which you do not protest. You will not be able to point out any inconsistency in this.

But you come to the question of *fact*, and demand what evidence there is that popular notions “ go “ beyond a sound faith respecting our blessed Lady ? ” (p. 21.) I think you have had evidence enough. Would you wish me to quote the popular formularies of devotion ? They are at hand, if there be any further call for evidence. You describe to us the religious exercises of an Italian peasant, (p. 22, 23,) and forget to state, that *Indulgences* are attached to the performance of them all. In the authorized



form of Christian instruction used at Rome, and compiled by Cardinal Bellarmine, the only religious exercises recommended are the daily repetition of the "Pater" and "Ave," and the *Rosary of the Virgin*. The latter is thus mentioned. "M. *What exercise have you for keeping up devotion* (Ch' esercizio "avete per mantenere la divozione)? D. *I say the "Rosary of our Lady*, and I continually meditate "on the fifteen mysteries of the said Rosary, "in which is contained the Life of our Lord Jesus "Christ." If, as you say, (p. 24.) your people do not think it sinful to "neglect their devotions to "the blessed Virgin," of which I should be glad to have some evidence beyond your mere assertion, it does not prove that they do not offer idolatrous prayers and worship to her.

We do not pronounce that *all* who pay honours to images "have renounced their faith, and "abjured their God." (p. 25.) We have every reason, however, to fear, as well from doctrines maintained by many of your theologians and *never censured*, as from appearances (which you yourself allow to be against you, p. 24.) that very many amongst you *do* give directly idolatrous worship to images, and put their trust in them. We see no attempts made to arrest the grossest superstitions. They are *acknowledged* to be abuses, and there the matter rests.

You complain that the "*devotional feelings*" of Roman Catholics with reference to images



“ are taken as tests of their *convictions and faith.*” (p. 25.) I must confess that there seems to me nothing unreasonable in this test. If the “ devotional feelings” of an Italian towards the Virgin are greater than towards his God, I cannot but think that (whatever his faith may be *in theory*) the Virgin is practically his God. It is idolatry to love, or confide in, or worship any creature above God, or instead of God, or equally with God. A faith which brings forth no fruit of “ devotional feelings,” which permits those feelings to fix on other objects than God, is a *dead* faith.

You, who have talked so slightly of *travellers’* accounts of religion in Romish countries, (p. 19,) should not have attempted to furnish us with anecdotes of your own. You hold up the conversation of a boy at Pæstum, as a proof, that the peasants of Italy have no exaggerated notions of the Virgin. The final question was well put, and well answered; “ Could she have redeemed you?” “ Not unless her Son commanded her.” (p. 26.) This seems to you conclusive as to the soundness of the boy’s faith. To me it does not. The boy may have believed that the Virgin *could redeem him* by command of the Son of God—that she was in fact his saviour, his patroness, his only hope—that his duty was to place his trust and confidence in her—and that devotion to her was sufficient for his salvation. All this he may have believed, notwithstanding his recognition of the superior Deity of Jesus Christ.

As you have favoured us with one anecdote, I shall add another, in illustration of the opinions of the middling classes of Irish Romanists.—A gentleman of strict veracity, with whom I am intimately acquainted, and from whose lips I received the following account, was one day conversing with a remarkably intelligent and respectable farmer of the Romish persuasion, a fifty pound freeholder in the county of Tipperary. The conversation turned on the Virgin Mary, when my friend enquired, “What reason Roman Catholics had for worshipping the blessed Virgin?” The reply was, “Because she is the *Mother* of God.” “Well, but that does not prove that she is God, or that she ought to be worshipped!” Answer. “She is the *Mother* of God, and therefore must be worshipped as well as God. If we worship the *Son*, we must worship the *Mother* also.” “Well, but you do not mean to say that the Virgin was the Mother of God as regards his *Divine nature*?” “She was surely a human being before she became the Mother of our Lord, and could she then have become God?” This seemed to stagger the man for a moment, but he soon replied: “Oh, she *is* the Mother of God, and therefore we must worship her. This is our belief.” My friend found it impossible to dislodge him from this position, or to convince him that the Virgin Mary was in any respect inferior to our Lord himself.

As to the Roman Ritual for the Visitation of the Sick, to which you refer us, (p. 27,) it may have received comparatively little of modern addition, and may therefore retain in some degree the pure doctrines of Catholic antiquity. Is this any proof that the Virgin and Saints are not idolatrously worshipped on other occasions? Your impression of the sentiments of the lower orders of Roman Catholics during your experience "in the hospitals of the eternal city" is certainly favourable. Perhaps others might have been able to give a somewhat different account.

To your personal appeal to Mr. Newman, (p. 30,) I have nothing to say in particular. I suppose you would scarcely ask him to refrain from expressing opinions in opposition to your errors, which have been formed on a full examination of the subject. You have no right to impute to him any haste or want of consideration in what he has written. I have no doubt that he is satisfied of the truth of what he has said against you, and that he will be always prepared to maintain it.

In reply to Mr. N.'s remark, that "the only thing which can stop this tendency [to practical idolatry] in the decrees of Rome [about Images and Relics] as things are, is its making some formal declaration the other way;" you ask, "What extent of formal declaration would satisfy you?" . . . . "In what manner would you have the Church of Rome draw up and promulgate

“ a declaration that should be more satisfactory  
“ than all those various declarations [at present  
“ existing] put together ?” (p. 31.)

I am glad, Sir, to have one point of agreement with you before I close this Letter. The difficulty you have suggested is most perplexing. It would indeed be difficult to devise any general disclaimer of superstitions which could not be evaded by the ingenuity of your theologians, and which would leave no loop-holes for idolatry and superstition. But, Sir, we will be content with a much simpler and easier mode of clearing your Church from the imputations which now so justly rest on her. Let her prelates, her clergy, and her theologians, no longer remain satisfied with assuring us that we misunderstand their religion. Let them no longer confine themselves to the attempt to hoodwink us, by appealing to the Decrees of Trent, and denying that any worship of the Virgin and Saints and any notions of Purgatory which are not there expressed are *binding* on them; as if that very circumstance did not *increase the guilt* of those who receive and those who sanction such abuses. Let them refrain from canonizing and publishing lives of Saints crammed with the most scandalous idolatries and blasphemies. Let them protest against authorized and sanctioned abuses—prayers to Saints investing them with the attributes of Deity—worship of images pushed to idolatrous excess—Indulgences viewed as ends of Christian exertion—devotion to

creatures instead of the Creator—repeated sacrifices of Christ. Let them proclaim the grand and simple sanctions of Christianity, and exhort men to look far above human inventions and the intercession of creatures, to HIM, who as God and Man is alone able to mediate with Almighty efficacy between the Creator and sinful man. Let us see this, and we shall then indeed rejoice to relieve your Church from those accusations, which we are now, in deep sorrow, compelled by Christian truth to lay to its charge. Let us see this, and there will be few if any obstacles to the restoration of that peace, which we desire, if possible, still more earnestly than yourselves.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PALMER.

OXFORD, *April* 12, 1841.





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SUFFRAGES FOR THE DEAD.

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BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.

OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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## A SECOND LETTER,

&c.

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SIR,

YOU have yourself commenced the present controversy, and can therefore have no reason to complain if I pursue the path which you have opened. You have afforded an opportunity for entering on a discussion and refutation of doctrines commonly and authoritatively taught in your Communion; an opportunity which seems to bear the impress of a Providential design, and of which I avail myself with the utmost joy, under the expectation that, amidst the excitement which evidently pervades the minds of Romanists in this country, and the spirit of enquiry which exists amongst them, and which cannot in all instances be repressed, the doctrines of Scripture, of Tradition, of the Roman Church herself (rightly understood), may be heard amongst you—heard, it may be, with rage and opposition by some—but still heard, and felt to be unanswered—heard perhaps with docility by others, and made the means of

their extrication from a mass of dangerous and pernicious error, if not of their restoration to that way of salvation, the true Church of Christ, from which they are at present, under the mysterious will of God, severed.

In the name of Christian truth and sincerity I hope, that no measures may be taken by those who are in authority amongst Romanists, to check the spirit of discussion which has lately so much distinguished them. If Romanism be the truth, it will not shrink from an examination into its merits. If it be conscious of strength, it will courageously meet its opponents in the field of controversy. There will not be any attempt to *stifle* discussion and enquiry, as was the case lately, when the authorities of your Communion at Oscott, interfered to prevent the continuance of private correspondence between a clergyman in this University of the highest Church principles, and the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Spencer, which was on the point of bringing back the latter unhappy individual to the fold of Christ from which he had strayed. This most valued convert of yours came to this University brimfull of expectation that he should obtain some valuable accessions to your ranks—and he narrowly escaped being converted himself to the very Church he came to assail.

There cannot be any impropriety, any spirit of unprovoked aggression, in continuing my comments on the errors and superstitions of your Church,



when it is remembered, that the Press has, for years, been teeming with the controversial publications of Romanists, inviting attention to the pretended merits of their religion, and assailing those of the Catholic Church in England; when Societies are instituted with the avowed intention of perverting the faithful to your schism; when you are loud in your boastings of the success of your system of proselytism; when you seem to “live, and move, and have your being” in assailing our Religion by every method temporal as well as spiritual; and when no views, however moderate, however orthodox, however harmonizing with those of Catholic Antiquity, can protect their advocates from your interference, and from your controversial attacks. May it not be justly enquired, “Is there “not a cause?” Is it not time to expose your sophistries, to hold up your contradictions to the world, and to drag your errors and superstitions forth into the face of day, and assail them with the weapons of Truth?

You have vainly imagined, that because the study of Catholic Antiquity has recently acquired a new importance—because men are no longer satisfied with superficial and popular systems of divinity, but view Scripture in its own light, reflected in the writings of the holy Martyrs and Saints of old; and because the primitive Church in all its parts has become the object of admiration and the model for imitation—(not always with strict

judgment, I admit,) you have imagined, I say, that this movement was destined to promote your objects, and to bring converts to you. You have been buoying yourselves up with this hope, not without occasional misgivings that it might prove delusive in the end. You have indeed been *compelled* to assure your people, that men who studied Christian Antiquity, with a disposition to submit to its doctrines, could not fail to become Romanists ; for had they been permitted to think any other result possible—had they been made aware that the study of Catholic Antiquity would only *rivet* men in their opposition to Romish errors, they might have been led to doubt whether those errors were really supported by Catholic tradition, as you pertinaciously and loudly assert them to be.

But, Sir, Time will dissipate these vain prognostics, these empty and baseless visions. If there has been in any instance, what might seem to afford any countenance to your hopes—if there has been, in any case, any seeming approximation to your errors, it has arisen from incaution or indiscretion of mind—from the hasty writing or thinking of men undisciplined in the crafty and cautious language of Jesuitism—from *any thing but love of the errors of Romanism*. If I am not mistaken, (and I have more opportunities of knowing the *intentions* of the writers alluded to than you can have,) there has never been any *intention* to afford countenance to your errors and superstitions, but,

on the contrary, a hearty wish to adopt the very best and soundest methods of *refuting* them. It may be, that the popular line of argument against you did not seem very judicious to the persons alluded to, and that they have sought for other and more convincing arguments. It may be, that their attention has been directed chiefly to the strengthening and beautifying of their own Church, and that they have not turned aside to assail your errors. But this, Sir, however it may excite transitory hopes, cannot long mislead you. Already you are beginning to open your eyes to the truth, and to assail those whom you professed to regard as the friends of Romanism. A little time will suffice to develope the truth more fully, and will teach the world what sort of reason you have to rejoice at the spread of Church principles.

In my former Letter, your doctrine of Indulgences and Purgatory was briefly noticed, with a view to shew, that the tenets *authorized* in the Church of Rome had not been unfairly represented. I must now invite your attention to some further observations on the same subjects, and on some other branches of your doctrines connected with them.

I need scarcely point out to your sagacity, that a vast body of your doctrines and practices to which we object, depends altogether on one principle, which is as it were the foundation-stone, the very vital essence of the whole. I mean, your

doctrine of a debt still remaining due to Divine Justice after the remission of sin—the doctrine of *temporal punishments* to be endured for sin after its eternal penalty has been remitted. It is the doctrine of your Church, that by the Divine Law, temporal as well as eternal penalties are due to sin; that while the latter, together with the *guilt* of sin, are remitted in the Sacrament of Penance, the former still remain due to Divine justice; and that they may be averted by works of satisfaction, such as prayer, fasting, and alms-deeds, and by the suffrages of the Church, especially by the sacrifice of the holy Eucharist. Let me, in order to make my meaning still clearer, extract from your own writings a very clear and accurate exposition of the doctrine in question—an exposition which is perfectly in accordance with the tenets of all your divines on this subject.

“ Now let us come to the remaining part of the  
“ Sacrament [of Penance]. We believe that upon  
“ this forgiveness of sins [in it], that is, after the  
“ remission of that eternal debt, which God in his  
“ justice awards to transgressions against his law,  
“ he has been pleased to reserve a certain degree  
“ of inferior or temporary punishment, appropriate  
“ to the guilt which had been incurred; and it is on  
“ this part of the punishment alone, that, according  
“ to the Catholic doctrine, satisfaction can be made  
“ to God. What the grounds of this belief are, I  
“ will state just now. At present, I wish to lay

“ down the doctrine clearly and intelligibly ; that  
 “ it is only with regard to the reserved degree of  
 “ temporal punishment that we believe the Chris-  
 “ tian can satisfy the justice of God <sup>a</sup>. ”

I must also avail myself of your subsequent description of the Romish doctrine on this subject.

“ The doctrine which is thus collected from the  
 “ word of God, is reducible to these heads : 1. That  
 “ God, after the remission of sin, retains a lesser  
 “ chastisement in his power, to be inflicted on the  
 “ sinner. 2. That penitential works, fasting, alms-  
 “ deeds, contrite weeping, and fervent prayer, have  
 “ the power of averting that punishment. 3. That  
 “ this scheme of God’s justice was not a part of  
 “ the imperfect law, but the unvarying ordinance  
 “ of his dispensation, anterior to the Mosaic Ritual,  
 “ and amply confirmed by Christ in the Gospel.  
 “ 4. That it consequently becomes a part of all  
 “ true repentance to try to satisfy this divine  
 “ justice, by the voluntary assumption of such  
 “ penitential works, as his revealed truth assures  
 “ us have efficacy before him. ”

“ These propositions contain the Catholic doctrine  
 “ concerning Satisfaction <sup>b</sup>. ”

This, Sir, is a very fair and correct statement of the doctrines taught in all parts of your Church<sup>c</sup>,

<sup>a</sup> Lectures on principal doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church, vol. ii. p. 41, 42.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 47.

<sup>c</sup> Vide Catechism. Concil. Trident. Pars ii. De Pœnitentiæ Sacramento, c. xc ; Bellarmin. De Pœnitentiæ, l. iv. c. ii.



and it is quite *consistent* with the following decrees of the Council of Trent ; though in this, as in other cases, your authorized doctrines go beyond the definitions of that Conventicle.

“ If any one saith, that the *whole* punishment is  
 “ always remitted with the *guilt* [of sin] by God,  
 “ and that the satisfaction of penitents is nothing  
 “ but the faith by which they lay hold on Christ’s  
 “ satisfaction for them ; Let him be Anathema.

“ If any one saith, that no *satisfaction* is made to  
 “ God for sins, as to their *temporal punishment*,  
 “ through the merits of Christ, by punishments  
 “ inflicted by Him [God] and patiently endured,  
 “ or enjoined by the Priest (not spontaneously  
 “ undertaken), such as fasting, prayer, almsgiving,  
 “ or other works of piety ; and therefore that the  
 “ best penitence is only a new life ; Let him be  
 “ Anathema.

“ If any one saith, that the keys of the Church  
 “ are only given to loose and not to bind also, and  
 “ therefore that Priests, in imposing punishments  
 “ on those who confess, act contrary to the *end* of  
 “ the keys and the ordinance of Christ, and that it  
 “ is a fiction that in virtue of the keys, *temporal*  
 “ *punishment remains, for the most part, to be*

Tournely, De Pœnit. t. ii p. 3 ; Bouvier, De Pœnit. p. 128, &c. 280 ; Trevern, Discussion Amicale, t. ii. p. 205 ; Milner, End of Controversy, Letter xlii ; Hornyhold, Real Principles of Catholics (on Penance) ; Faith of Catholics by Berrington and Kirk, p. 339. Walenburch. Opera, t. ii. p. 19 ; &c.



“*discharged, after eternal punishment has been removed; Let him be Anathema*<sup>d</sup>.”

It might naturally be objected to this doctrine, that the Sacrament of Baptism also remits sin, and yet there is no reserve of *temporal* punishment in this case; so that it seems unreasonable to suppose that when sins are remitted by the sacrament of Penitence, their temporal penalties are made an exception to the general amnesty. But the Council of Trent has its answer to this objection in the following terms.

“The nature of Divine justice seems to require, that they who have sinned ignorantly before baptism, should be received into favour in a different mode from those, who having been once delivered from the service of sin and of the Devil, and having received the gift of the Holy Ghost, have not feared knowingly to violate the temple of God, and to grieve the Holy Ghost. And it befits the Divine clemency, not to pardon our sins without any satisfaction, lest we should take occasion to suppose our sins light, and committing injury and insult against the Holy Ghost, should fall into more grievous sins, laying up for ourselves wrath in the day of wrath<sup>e</sup>.”

I trust, Sir, you will admit that I have endeavoured to give the fullest and most authentic exposition of the doctrine of your Church in

<sup>d</sup> Concil. Trident. Sessio xiv.

<sup>e</sup> Sessio xiv. cap. viii.

reference to temporal penalties and satisfactions. Your own statements on the subject are, as I can attest, entirely in accordance with those of all your theologians, and they exactly harmonize with the doctrines of the Council of Trent. There can therefore be no mistake as to what the belief of Romanists really is on these points.

Now, Sir, I have already said, that a large body of your doctrines and practices to which we object, depends on the doctrine of temporal punishment, and the necessity of satisfying for it by penitential works. This is stated correctly by one of your titular bishops, Dr. Hornyhold, as follows.

“ The *eternal* pain is forgiven [in the Sacrament  
“ of Penance], but the *temporal* pain commonly  
“ remains, as it appears both from the necessity of  
“ the thing, the instance of David, who was pu-  
“ nished by the death of his children after his sins  
“ were forgiven, 2 Kings xii. ; and other instances  
“ of temporal calamities inflicted for offences  
“ though pardoned. *And this method of temporal*  
“ *pain IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH as to*  
“ *sacramental Satisfaction, Indulgences, Purgatory,*  
“ *and Prayer for the dead*<sup>†</sup>. ”

It does not appear evident at first view, how your doctrine of Satisfaction, Purgatory, Indulgences, Masses, and Suffrages or Prayers for the dead, are connected together ; and how *vitally* they

<sup>†</sup> Hornyhold, Real Principles of Catholics, p. 277, 278. Ed. London, 1749.

all depend on the doctrine of temporal penalties above mentioned. Bear with me then, while I trace the mutual connexion and dependence of these doctrines and practices.

Your Church lays it down as a broad and general principle, that temporal punishment is still due to the Divine justice for sins, after their eternal punishment has been remitted in the Sacrament of Penance. This is the first step.

Secondly, you maintain, that such temporal punishment may be averted by *Satisfactions* or works of penance, such as fasting, alms, and prayers, which, according to you, satisfy, expiate, or atone for the temporal punishments due to Divine justice.

Thirdly, you argue, that as temporal penalties are absolutely due to Divine justice; if they are not redeemed or expiated in this life by works of penance, they must be endured in the next life, and this is your doctrine of *Purgatory*.

Fourthly, you believe, that the Church has the power of remitting such temporal punishments in this life or in Purgatory by *Indulgences*, in which the merits of Christ and (as many of you hold) of the Saints, are applied to the supply of your deficiency in works of Satisfaction.

Fifthly, you conceive, that as there may be doubts whether the conditions on which Indulgences are given are really fulfilled, and as there may be other reasons for questioning whether a real

remission of temporal punishment has been obtained by Indulgences in any particular case, it is necessary to *continue* works of Satisfaction, as if Indulgences had not been granted, and to obtain the Suffrages or Prayers of the Church, especially the *sacrifice of the Mass*, which you believe to have great efficacy in remitting the temporal punishments of the living and dead.

Sixthly, you believe, that *one person may perform satisfactory works for another*, and thus obtain the remission or diminution of his temporal punishment in this life or in Purgatory, and that he may also acquire the remissions of temporal punishment conveyed by Indulgences, and apply them to the relief of the dead in the tortures of Purgatory, or even to their delivery from those dreaded regions.

From this, Sir, it is evident, that your doctrine of *Temporal punishment* is the very life-blood, the vital sap, the foundation, the key-stone of your system on all these points. Take this doctrine away, and the whole machinery of your Church is broken asunder. Your Purgatory, your Satisfaction, your Indulgences, your Masses for the dead, Confraternities, privileged altars, scapularies, and beads, medals, and crucifixes, with the whole paraphernalia of indulgenced rites, objects, and prayers, are scattered to the winds. This, Sir, is the root from which springs a huge and fearful mass of superstition, choking and obscuring the pure faith

which still lingers among you ; and in assailing this error and its branches, which like serpents have clung round your Catholic faith, and by their poisonous breath have been destroying its children, I have no other object than to restore the ancient Roman faith—the faith of the holy Catholic Church—that faith which has always existed, and which, by virtue of the Saviour’s promise, shall prevail over “ the gates of Hell,” over all the machinations of the Powers of Darkness.

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Let us come then to the examination of the basis on which this doctrine rests. Let us enquire what reasons you can furnish for believing, that by a general law of God, temporal penalties remain due to Divine justice after sin has been remitted, and that such penalties can be averted.

1. You appeal in the first place to what passes within our minds ; I quote from your own writings.

“ Is it God’s ordinance, that *when he has forgiven sins*, and so justified the sinner as to place him once more in a state of grace, he still *reserves* the infliction of some degree of punishment for his transgressions ? We say, that *undoubtedly* it is ; and I would appeal, in the first instance, to the *feelings* of any individual ; and I do not believe there is any one, however he may think himself in a state of favour before God—however he may flatter himself that his



“ sins are taken away—who will not answer the  
 “ appeal. *Why is it that, when calamity falls upon*  
 “ *him, he receives it as a punishment for his sins?*  
 “ Why do our natural feelings prompt us to  
 “ consider our *domestic and personal afflictions as*  
 “ *sent by God for our transgressions*, although,  
 “ at the moment when affliction comes, we may  
 “ not be *conscious* of lying under actual guilt?  
 “ This is a *feeling* which pervades every form of  
 “ religion, and more naturally that of Christ;  
 “ because it is impossible to be familiar with the  
 “ word of God, without receiving an impression  
 “ that he does visit the sins of men on their heads,  
 “ although they may have endeavoured, with rea-  
 “ sonable hope, to obtain their forgiveness.... It  
 “ is impossible not, more or less, to connect the  
 “ idea of suffering inflicted, with that of sin com-  
 “ mitted<sup>g</sup>.”

You will excuse me, Sir, if I cannot admit the propriety of making any appeal, *in the first instance*, to our natural feelings, where a grand principle of religion is in question. If our natural feelings be *in accordance* with the doctrines revealed by God, and conveyed to us by the united voice of Scripture and Catholic Tradition, we may indeed use them as an *additional* argument in favour of the Truth; but if they are adopted as our guides and directors in the interpretation of the word of God;

<sup>g</sup> Lectures on the Doctrines, &c. of the Catholic Church, vol. ii. p. 42.



if they are put forward in *the first instance* to bias our minds, you must permit me to say, that, considering our natural inclination to evil, and the temptations of the Devil by which we are perpetually assailed, such a method seems eminently calculated to involve us in all sorts of errors and heresies.

I must therefore protest against your appealing in the first instance to our “natural feelings,” when the real question is whether a certain principle has been revealed by God.

But, Sir, I am ready and willing to meet you on the ground you have selected. I fully admit that our natural feelings prompt us to connect in some cases the notion of temporal calamities suffered, with that of sin committed and *unrepented of*. We need not look to Scripture and contemplate the case of a world destroyed by the flood for its sins, of Sodom perishing in fire and brimstone, and of the Jews scattered amidst all nations for their rejection of the Saviour; for we may see with our own eyes, that Divine Providence does *sometimes* make bare its arm, and visibly punish wicked individuals and nations. But, Sir, if we do see this, we also frequently see Vice and Sin triumphant in this world, and we see Virtue and Religion pining in misery and affliction, persecuted, overwhelmed with insults and torments, and lifting their eyes in meek resignation and inward joy to the sublime rewards which are promised to those that

suffer for Christ. Need I call to your remembrance the Saints of old, of whom the blessed Apostle Paul writes thus : “ They were tortured, not accepting  
“ deliverance; that they might obtain a better resur-  
“ rection; and others had trial of cruel mockings and  
“ scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprison-  
“ ment : they were stoned, they were sawn asunder,  
“ were tempted, were slain with the sword : they  
“ wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being  
“ destitute, afflicted, tormented ; *of whom the world*  
“ *was not worthy* : they wandered in deserts, and in  
“ mountains, and in dens, and caves of the earth.”  
Heb. xi. 35—38. No one can venture to say that these temporal afflictions were endured by the Saints for their *sins* ; they were *trials* of their faith, patience, love of God. Listen again to the words of our Lord Himself : “ *Blessed* are ye when  
“ men shall revile you and persecute you, and  
“ shall say all manner of evil against you falsely  
“ for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad :  
“ for *great* is your reward in heaven : for so per-  
“ secuted they the prophets which were before  
“ you.” And again, “ These things have I spoken  
“ unto you, that in me ye might have peace. *In*  
“ *the world ye shall have tribulation* ; but be of good  
“ cheer, I have overcome the world.” Hear the words of St. Paul : “ My son, despise not thou the  
“ chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art  
“ rebuked of Him : *for whom the Lord loveth He*  
“ *chasteneth*, and scourgeth every son whom he re-

“ *ceiveth.*” Attend also to the language of St. Peter, the first of the Apostles, “ Now for a season, “ if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold “ temptations: *that the trial of your faith, being* “ much more precious than of gold that perisheth “ though it be tried with fire, *might be found unto* “ *praise, and honour, and glory,* at the appearing of “ Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. i. 6, 7.

It is evident then, that temporal calamities are in many cases, nay as a *general rule*, inflicted on the true disciples of Christ, in order to *try* and strengthen their faith, and to procure for them a greater degree of glory, honour, and praise in the eternal and heavenly kingdom of Christ. And, Sir, this might have been anticipated from the life of Him whom we in common adore, and whom we regard as the grand example to whom our lives ought to be conformed. No Being that ever partook of human nature was so severely afflicted with temporal as well as spiritual sorrows and calamities as He who redeemed the world ; and yet, none but Himself was ever free from the taint of all sin, original as well as actual. This one example is an irrefragable proof, that temporal calamities and torments are not *necessarily*, in any way, the results of sin committed by him who suffers them.

You cannot deny the truth of this principle without heresy. You *do* not expressly deny it in your argument. But I have brought it thus distinctly forward, because it seems to me that

Romanists generally, in their consideration of the afflictions of good men, seem inclined to forget the reasons assigned for them by the word of God, and to suppose that they are all intended as *punishments of sin*. Nothing can be more injurious to God than such a notion. It represents Him in the attitude of a severe *Judge* instead of a loving *Parent*—a Parent who educates his children for higher glory by a more rigid discipline. In opposition to such errors, I lay down the following proposition as an Article of Catholic faith deduced directly from the word of God: “THAT TEMPORAL  
“ AFFLICTIONS AND CALAMITIES ARE COMMONLY  
“ IMPOSED BY GOD’S MERCY ON THE JUSTIFIED, IN  
“ ORDER THAT THEY MAY OBTAIN A GREATER AND  
“ MORE GLORIOUS REWARD.”

Now, Sir, I come to your arguments from our “*feelings*.” You imagine, “*that when calamity falls upon*” any one who thinks himself in a state of favour before God, “he receives it as a *punishment for his sins*.”—You assert, that “our natural  
“ feelings prompt us to consider our *domestic and*  
“ *personal afflictions*, as sent by God *for our trans-*  
“ *gressions*”—that “it is *impossible* not, more or  
“ less, to connect the idea of *suffering inflicted*, with  
“ that of *sin committed*.” I have no doubt, Sir, that yourself and other Romanists are in the habit of regarding such temporal afflictions of the justified as punishments for their past sins; but I must say, that any one who enters into the spirit of the

word of God; any one who can appreciate the glorious and merciful objects of a Heavenly Father in those afflictions, will view them in a widely different light. The carnal and ignorant may see in them nothing but exactions of Divine *justice*, penalties for sin *partially forgiven*. But the spiritual mind will trace in them the discipline of LOVE, not inflicting penalties for the past, but preparing the way for a more glorious futurity.

Such afflictions therefore are to be regarded as signs of love, not of vengeance. They are to be desired more than dreaded. They are to be endured, not expiated. If they are not endured, the Christian suffers loss. If they are removed, his reward is less. If you fast, and pray, and with many tears beseech God to remove from you these temporal calamities, you may indeed prevail, though one might almost doubt whether any prayer like this, proceeding from a heart unable to appreciate the Divine mercy, would be heard. The case of the inhabitants of Gadara however shews, that God will hear the prayers of those who intreat Him to “depart out of their coasts;” and it may be apprehended that He will also hear the prayers of those who ignorantly pray that his *grace* of afflictive dispensations may be removed from them—of those who regard his graces as calamities, his works of love as punishments.

You spend your lives in endeavouring to avert these *temporal afflictions*, which you regard as so



many exactions of God's justice. It is very true that you regard them as *punishments for sin*, and that they therefore appear to you in a most formidable light. But still you *really* are endeavouring to avert what is not a punishment for sin, but a mark of God's favour. The temporal afflictions of the righteous are seen by you in a false light. You think them judgments, while they are really mercies.

But you will answer, when thus pressed, that you *do* admit that temporal evils are frequently intended for spiritual blessings, though you hold that they are also often intended as punishments of sin remitted; and that it is not your design to avert them in the former sense, but in the latter.

I would enquire then, first, (admitting your doctrine for the sake of argument,) what means you have of determining that such temporal evils may not be, at once, punishments for sins past, and means of future improvement and reward? *If they be so*, you inflict an injury on yourselves by seeking to avert them, and yet you cannot deny that the case is possible.

Secondly, I ask, whether such temporal evils, if they are (as you imagine) inflicted for the punishment of sin remitted as regards its greater penalties, may not be *necessary* to preserve ourselves from falling again into sin, or *necessary* for the instruction of others? And here again is a reason why we should not earnestly labour to avert such temporal evils;



because in so doing we may be only interfering with our own salvation or that of the brethren, and counteracting the designs of God.

So much for your appeal to our “feelings,” and to the supposed connection between temporal suffering and *sin*. If you persist in asserting that temporal afflictions have a necessary connection with sin, you accuse our Saviour himself of sin, and fall into damnable heresy.

II. I now turn to the proofs which you adduce from Scripture in support of your doctrine. And here let me be permitted to state the question more clearly.

It is not in question then, whether temporal penalties are, in the order of God’s providence, (especially under the former dispensations,) due to, and inflicted on, *sin*; but whether they are, under the Gospel, due to sin *remitted and pardoned*.

Hence you will at once admit, that it would be the merest sophistry and folly to attempt to prove your doctrine from the simple fact, that temporal penalties for sin have been inflicted on *sinner*s under the old or new dispensations, while the question is whether they have been inflicted on *pardoned* sinners.

In considering the testimonies which have been advanced in support of your view, I must here turn from your scanty collection of scriptural examples, to the fuller and more systematic argument of Tournely. He collects “those places of

“ Scripture which signify that God, *after the pardon*  
 “ *of sin*, still requires an *avenging* temporal punish-  
 “ ment (*ultricem pœnam temporalem*) from the  
 “ penitent.”

“ The example of David (2 Kings [Samuel] xii,) is especially remarkable. For although Nathan had heard from the prophet (verse 13,) ‘ The Lord also hath put away thy sin ; thou shalt not die,’ he immediately adds, ‘ Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die ;’ and verse 10, ‘ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house ; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.’ God remits on one side the guilt and *eternal punishment* ; but on the other he requires *temporal punishment* as well from the son as the father himself, not merely for the discipline and amendment of David, and the example of others, as the Innocentius and especially Daillé commonly reply, but also for the punishment and chastisement of pardoned sin. ‘ Because by this deed thou hast given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme. . . . Because thou hast despised me,’ saith the holy context, which particle ‘ Because’ denotes that the *sin* of David was the real *cause* of all the evils which he suffered, and not merely their *occasion*, as Daillé cavils : for with what

“ more significant terms could Scripture have expressed the *cause* ?” (Tournely, De Pœnit. t. ii. p. 4.)

You will admit, Sir, that this is as clear and cogent an argument as can well be deduced from this passage in favour of your view. Let us now consider it more closely. It is obvious, therefore, that God by Nathan remitted the extreme punishment which was due to David’s sin, “ Thou shalt “ not die,” and that at the same time He imposed a lesser temporal punishment for his sin, “ The “ child that is born unto thee shall surely die.” But, Sir, I must deny that this example furnishes any necessary proof that a similar mode of proceeding characterizes the present dealings of God with us. A temporal penalty of some sort was necessary when God *visibly* interfered in the affairs of men. But now that his guidance is entirely spiritual and invisible, temporal penalties are no longer necessary in the same way ; and had David lived under the Christian dispensation, his crime might not have involved such consequences when truly repented of. Under the former dispensation the case was widely different. Had the favoured servant of God, the chosen pastor of God’s people, been permitted to commit most grievous and *scandalous* sins, without any visible signs of God’s indignation, the most fatal results must have followed. The justice of God would have been impugned. Sin would have been encouraged.

From all this it is plain, that no inference can be deduced from the above passage in proof of your tenets. But, Sir, there *is* a doctrine clearly taught by this example, and by the subsequent conduct of David, which is fatal to your view. We learn from it, that such temporal penalties inflicted for sin *cannot be averted*. Was the threatened punishment of David averted by his prayers, fastings, tears, prostrations, and other works of “*satisfaction?*” No! *The child died*. How vain therefore is it for you to imagine that such temporal penalties of sin can be averted! Observe too, that when temporal punishments were afterwards sent to David in the case of Absalom, and of the numbering of the people, he did *not attempt to avert them* by any works of satisfaction. He submitted to the Divine will, and his example is meant to teach us the duty of submission to all similar dispensations of God.

Tournely continues thus :

“ In the same II Book of Kings [Samuel] c. xxiv, “ although God had pardoned David’s sin, which “ he had committed in numbering the people, yet “ in verse 12, a *remaining* punishment is set forth “ to be discharged, and he is given the option “ of war, famine, or the plague.” (Tournely, *ibid.*)

On this argument I must observe, first, that there is no evidence whatever that God had *pardoned* David’s sin. It is true indeed that David “ said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that “ I have done ; and now, I beseech thee, O Lord,

“ take away the iniquity of thy servant : for I have  
 “ done very foolishly.” But all we know of the  
*result* is, that God offered him the choice of three  
 grievous penalties. There is not any allusion to  
 God’s having *pardoned* his sin when the penalty  
 was inflicted. Consequently this passage does not  
 relate to the question before us. If it did, however,  
 if David’s sin had been pardoned when the Prophet  
 offered him the choice of war, pestilence, or famine,  
 the conclusion would be fatal to your doctrine. *The  
 punishment was inflicted*, and David instructed by  
 the case of Uriah, that such punishments *could not  
 be averted by any works of satisfaction or penance*,  
 submitted himself to the Divine will.

Tournely continues : “ In the 32d chapter of  
 “ Exodus, when Moses interceded with God not to  
 “ destroy the whole people on account of their  
 “ crime in adoring the golden calf, God is said to  
 “ have been appeased verse 14, yet in verse 34  
 “ God saith, ‘ Nevertheless, in the day when I visit  
 “ I will visit their sin upon them.’ ” (Ibid.)

In this case God evidently *did not forgive* the sin  
 of the children of Israel, He only *commuted* the  
 sentence of utter destruction which He had pro-  
 nounced against that people for their idolatry, into  
 chastisements of a different character, at the prayer  
 and intercession of Moses. There is no evidence  
 that the people repented and were *forgiven* their  
 sin. On the contrary, the Lord said unto Moses,  
 in reply to his entreaties for their forgiveness,



“ Whosoever hath sinned against me, *him will I blot out of my book.*” (verse 33.) And in sign of his wrath we find, that “ the Lord *plagued* the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.” (verse 35.) What advantage then can you derive from this passage? It is adduced to prove that *sins pardoned* are subject to temporal punishment. But the sin of the children of Israel here mentioned was *not pardoned*.

I return to Tournely. “ In the 14th chapter of Numbers, the Lord was angry at the murmuring of the people, and was so appeased by the prayer of Moses as to say, (ver. 20.) ‘ I have pardoned according to thy word ;’ yet adds, (ver. 22.) ‘ All those men which have seen my glory and my miracles which I did . . . shall not see the land.’” (Ibid.)

In this case it is obvious, that the “ pardon” granted by God did not imply the forgiveness of the *sin* committed, and the *justification* of those who had committed it, for He speaks of the congregation as those that “ have *tempted* me now these ten times, and *have not hearkened* to my voice,” (ver. 22.); “ them that *provoked* me,” (ver. 23.); “ this *evil* congregation which murmur against me,” (ver. 27.) He says, “ Your little ones . . . shall know the land which *ye have despised*,” (ver. 31.) “ Each day for a year shall ye *bear your iniquities*,” (ver. 34.) “ I the Lord have said, I will surely do it unto all this *evil*



“ congregation that are gathered together against me,” (ver. 35.) Such is the language of God to the congregation of Israel *after* he had “ pardoned” them, (ver. 20.) And it is plain therefore that this pardon was not a remission of *their sin*, but a remission of the *immediate destruction by pestilence*, and the *disinheritance* which God had threatened, (ver. 12.) The temporal punishments then with which they were visited, were not punishments of *sin remitted*—punishments of the *justified*. They were chastisements of unbelieving and impenitent sinners. Is this the interpretation of unaided human reason? Is it not the interpretation of St. Paul in the Epistle to the Hebrews, where speaking of those that fell in the wilderness in consequence of this Divine decree, he says, “ To whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that *believed not* ? So we see that they could not enter in because of their *unbelief*,” (Hebr. iii. 18, 19.) And is it this *unbelieving*, this *impenitent*, this *evil* congregation, that you would hold up as a proof that temporal penalties are inflicted on the *believing* and *justified* penitent ?

I return to your proofs. “ Add to these those places of Scripture in which just and holy men declare that they are punished and afflicted in this life for their sins,—doubtless *past and already pardoned by God*. Thus Tobias, c. iii. v. 4. said, ‘ Because we have not obeyed thy com-

“ mandments, therefore we have been delivered  
 “ for a spoil, and unto captivity, and unto death,  
 “ and for a proverb of reproach to all the nations  
 “ among which we are dispersed. Deal not with  
 “ me according to *my sins* and my father’s, &c.’ ”  
 (Tournely, *ibid.*)

There is no evidence whatever that Tobias, in offering this prayer, believed that his sins *had been pardoned*. On the contrary, his prayer infers throughout, that he believed himself *still* subject to God’s *displeasure for sin*, and to the punishment which resulted from it. He prays God “ not to  
 “ punish him for his sins and ignorances,” (ver. 3.) evidently supposing that he was still liable to the *full* measure of penalty due to them. This passage therefore cannot afford any support to your doctrine of a *portion* of the punishment due to sin remaining after the greater part of its penalties have been remitted, and after the sin has been remitted, and the sinner *justified* by the sacrament of Penance.

“ In the third chapter of Daniel, v. 28. the  
 “ three children placed in the furnace say, ‘ In  
 “ truth and in judgment thou hast brought on  
 “ us all these things, *because of our sins,*’ ” &c.  
 (Tournely, *ibid.*)

I might object to this passage at once, as an interpolation, and as forming no part of the word of God, because it is not found in the Hebrew original of the Book of Daniel. But it is needless

for my purpose to do so ; because it is evident from these words and from the whole context, that the three children believed that their sins *had not been remitted*, and consequently the case has nothing to do with your doctrine.

“ The wise man pronounces generally (Proverbs iii. 12.) that ‘ whom the Lord loveth he correcteth ; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.’ The same is said, Hebr. xii. 6. and “ Rev. iii. 19.” (Tournely, *ibid.*)

Certainly, the Lord does intend temporal afflictions as marks of *love* to the justified. This is exactly what we contend for. We view them as a discipline of love, intended to promote the glory and happiness of believers. You regard them as modes of Divine *vengeance* for sin *already pardoned*. Which of these two doctrines is the most consistent with the passages just quoted ? Which is most calculated to sweeten the afflictions of the world ? Which is most conducive to the glory of God ? Which is most calculated to cause love of God and dependence on Him ? I am content to leave this to the conscience of my readers, and of yourself.

But I must now endeavour to collect your remaining arguments from Scripture, for the purpose of seeing the utmost extent of what can be said in maintenance of your principle. I turn then to Bellarmine, and glean from his pages what follows.

He argues, “ that *death itself* is often inflicted as “ the penalty of sin, even after its guilt has been

“remitted,” from Genesis ii. ‘In the day that ‘thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die;’ and Rom. v. ‘By one man sin entered into the world, ‘and death by sin, and so death passed upon all ‘men, in whom all have sinned.’ Death then is the punishment of original sin, and yet the guilt and eternal penalty of original sin is remitted by baptism. Thus all men suffer temporal penalties for sin remitted<sup>a</sup>.

In reply to this we may most fully admit, that death is the penalty of *original sin*; but we deny that any argument can be drawn from this to prove that temporal penalties are inflicted on *actual sins* after they have been pardoned. For if all men suffer death for original sin, it is for the sin of *Adam* imputed to them, and not for any sin committed *by themselves*. So that sins which *we ourselves* commit, may be free from any temporal penalties after their remission. All then that can be collected from the fact alleged by Bellarmine is, that God *might, if he pleased*, inflict temporal penalties ‘on our actual sins after they were remitted. This we fully concede in the abstract, though we do not conceive it consistent with the actual scheme of redemption. But the question is, whether *He has really made such a regulation*, and there is no proof here that He has done so.

Another argument is deduced from the penalty awarded to Moses and Aaron for their sin at the

<sup>a</sup> Bellarmin. De Pœnitentia, lib. iv. c. ii.

water of Meribah, when God declared to them that they should not enter the promised land. (Numbers xx. 12.) And accordingly Aaron died in Mount Hor, (ver. 28.) and Moses in Mount Nebo, (Deut. xxxiv. 5.) Yet no one will deny that Moses and Aaron were restored to the favour of God after their sin at Meribah<sup>s</sup>.

To this it may be replied, that as Moses and Aaron had not believed God “to sanctify him in “the eyes of the children of Israel,” (Numb. xx. 12.) and had thus *publicly* offended against God, it was essentially necessary that some mark of Divine displeasure against their sin should be inflicted; because God at that time ruled his people by a system of temporal rewards and punishments, and guided them in a direct and visible manner. But under the Christian dispensation He no longer does so, and therefore sins equal to that of Moses need not necessarily be visited by temporal penalties. The justice and sanctity of his government no longer demand any such dispensations. The conduct of Moses and Aaron however concur to prove what is fatal to your view, for they did not seek to *avert* the threatened penalty in any way, and the penalty itself was strictly and literally exacted.

The only other argument which seems worthy of notice is from 1 Kings xiii.—the case of the Prophet who was slain by a lion on account of his sins; and yet, as Bellarmine argues, “it cannot

<sup>s</sup> Bellarmine, *ibid*.



“ be doubtful that he requested and obtained  
 “ pardon from the Lord ; for in proof of the  
 “ *sanctity* in which he had died, the lion stood near  
 “ the body without eating it, and did not dare even  
 “ to touch the Prophet’s ass <sup>k</sup>. ”

This is just as good a proof of the sanctity of the *ass* as of the prophet. The lion touched neither : therefore the one and the other died in sanctity ! What folly is this ! The plain reason of the miracle was to shew that this penalty was distinctly the work of God—to furnish an undeniable proof of his punishment of disobedience.

These, Sir, are your proofs from Scripture. They are the proofs adduced by the Catechism of the Council of Trent, by Bellarmine, Tournely, Delahogue, Bouvier, Milner, Hornyhold, yourself, and all your writers. And now what can they avail you ? The passages which all your most eminent theologians have brought from Scripture either subvert your doctrine, or utterly fail to prove its truth. They either speak of the temporal penalties of sin *not pardoned*, or they relate to

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. Bouvier, Bishop of Maus, adds one other argument, from the circumstance of Adam’s suffering death for his sin, though that sin had doubtless been pardoned. (De Pœnit. p. 128.) But it must be remembered, that in this case God was bound by his own positive *promise*, “ In the day that thou “ eatest thereof thou shalt *surely die*. ” God is not bound by any similar promise under the Gospel to inflict temporary penalties or death for our sins. Consequently the punishment of Adam proves nothing.



circumstances when temporal and visible penalties were *necessary* in the Divine economy ; or they shew that temporal afflictions are not *penalties of sin*. Produce if you can any other and better proofs from Scripture, and I shall be ready to discuss them ; but do not weary us by the repetition of refuted arguments.

III. I would here gladly enter on the discussion of certain passages from the Fathers which have been adduced in favour of your doctrine, and demonstrate from them the falsity of that very doctrine ; but space fails me at present ; and this discussion is not, strictly speaking, necessary ; because if you are *manifestly* devoid of any scriptural proofs for your doctrine, it cannot, according to the doctrine laid down by Veron<sup>1</sup>, Bossuet, and many of your most eminent theologians, (in accordance with the whole body of the Fathers<sup>m</sup>,) be any *article of faith* ; and consequently your doctrines of Satisfaction, Purgatory, and Indulgences, built upon it, cannot be articles of faith ; and the Council of Trent

<sup>1</sup> Veron, in his *Regula Fidei*, cap. i. sect. 2. says, that “ *two things must be united* in order that any doctrine should be an article of the Catholic faith : one, that it be revealed of God by the prophets, apostles, or canonical authors ; the other, that it be proposed by the Church.”

<sup>m</sup> See *Treatise on the Church*, vol. ii. p. 10—17. Newman on Romanism, Lect. xiii. Usher’s Answer to a Jesuit, c. ii. Taylor’s Dissuasive, p. ii. b. i. s. ii. And the Norrisian prize Essay for this year, by the Rev. D. A. Beaufort, M. A. (Parker, London.)

must have erred in declaring them articles of faith.

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But, Sir, I have not yet concluded my task, which would be incomplete if it were limited merely to a refutation of your arguments in defence of the doctrine of temporal penalties. There are specific objections to that doctrine, which must now be offered to your notice.

Your belief then is, that Divine *justice* exacts the debt of temporal punishment for sin, after its eternal punishment has been remitted. You do not imagine that the *mercy* or *love* of God demands these penalties. No:—it is (as all your writers say) the *justice* of God which is to be satisfied by temporal penalties.

Let me establish this by some citations from your own writings. You say, “It is only with regard to the reserved degree of temporal punishment that we believe the Christian can satisfy the *justice* of God<sup>n</sup>.”. . . “This scheme of God’s *justice* was not a part of the imperfect law, but the unvarying ordinance of his dispensation anterior to the Mosaic ritual, and amply confirmed by Christ in the Gospel.”. . . “It consequently becomes a part of true repentance to try to satisfy this *Divine justice* by the voluntary assumption of such penitential works.”. . .

<sup>n</sup> Lectures on the principal doctrines, &c. of the Catholic Church, vol. ii. p. 42.

“ These propositions contain the *Catholic doctrine* “ concerning Satisfaction °.” I need scarcely say, that the language of all writers of your Communion is exactly similar ; and it is obviously necessary that it should be so, for if temporal *punishments* are due for remitted sin, they can only be due to Divine *justice*.

Now if Divine *justice* still remains to be satisfied after the remission of sin, it must require what is *in justice* due to sin, that is, *eternal punishment*, and consequently the remission of sin is, according to your doctrine, a mere name. So that your doctrine is absolutely subversive of its own foundation, and of the foundation of the Christian’s hopes.

And besides this, Divine *justice* which demands an *infinite* punishment for sin, cannot receive any finite or limited punishments in part-payment of the debt due to it. It demands an infinite punishment—a punishment not made up of parts—a punishment *infinitely* greater than all that human imagination could even *conceive*. To imagine therefore that the punishment due to Divine and Infinite *justice* for sin can be divided or separated into eternal and temporal ; and that *temporal* and eternal punishments *together* satisfy the justice of God ; is as absurd as it would be to imagine, that a grain of sand, *together with the universe*, make up Infinity. It is to suppose that Infinite *justice* can

° Ibid. p. 47.

require what is, in comparison, less than the least of things, *in addition* to an infinite penalty.

But Divine Justice has received an adequate sacrifice. The merits of our Saviour Christ, both God and man, were equal to the demands of Divine Justice, and they were accepted. Henceforth the *justice* of God was appeased; and it has no claims on those to whom the infinite merits of Christ have been applied by true repentance. They may rest in confidence on the mercy of God, knowing indeed that many temporal calamities will befall them, according to the promise of Christ; but not regarding those calamities as exactions of God's *justice partially satisfied*. They know that unrepented sin may again make them liable to God's judgments in this world and in eternity. But they firmly believe that an infinite atonement has been made for sins which demanded an infinite punishment, and as they believe that Divine *justice* has thus been fully and entirely satisfied, they also believe that it can have *no further claims*. Consequently the doctrine that temporal punishment can be due to the *justice* of God for sin remitted through Christ, is to them an impossibility. Did they reckon themselves still liable, when justified, to demands from God's *justice*, the very foundation of their hope of salvation would be shattered to pieces.

But, Sir, dangerous and pernicious as your doctrine on this point has been proved, I have not yet disclosed its crowning absurdity and wickedness.

It is the doctrine of the Council of Trent itself, that “*Justification* is not remission of sin merely, “ but also *sanctification*, and the renewal of the “ inner man by the voluntary reception of *grace* “ and *divine gifts*; so that he who was unrighteous “ is made *righteous*, and the enemy becomes a “ *friend*, and an *heir* according to the hope of “ eternal life . . . when a man is justified, and “ *united to Jesus Christ*, he receives, together with “ the remission of sins, the following gifts bestowed “ upon him at the same time, namely, *faith*, *hope*, “ and *charity*.”

Justification is then something more than the mere remission of sins—it is the restoration of the sinner to a state of grace, to union with his God, to all the glorious privileges of a “ child of God.”

And yet, Sir, in the face of this most undoubted truth—in the face of their own belief, and the belief of the Roman Church—your writers have the almost incredible folly and wickedness to assert, that the justified and beloved children of God *are* liable to the Divine *wrath* and *vengeance*! Yes. It is their doctrine, that temporal punishments are exacted from a justified believer by the *vengeance* of God. Let me produce the following proofs. Your celebrated controversialists, Bishops Adrian and Peter de Walenburch, write thus: “ Since “ holy Scripture shews by many examples, that “ God after remitting the guilt and eternal punish-

ᵖ Concil. Trid. Sess. vi. cap. vii.



“ment of sins, chastises sinners with temporal  
 “punishments, Catholics think that voluntary  
 “afflictions undertaken from the love of God and  
 “faith working by love appease the *wrath* of God  
 “(*placare iram Dei*<sup>q</sup>).” Tournely says, “that  
 “God after the pardon of sin still exacts a *re-*  
 “*ven*ging temporal punishment from the penitent,  
 “(*ultricem pœnam temporalem a pœnitente adhuc*  
 “*re*poscere<sup>r</sup>.)” Your own expressions are equally  
 strong. In arguing for the necessity of Satisfaction  
 you say, “Even so, when God remits a weight of  
 “eternal punishment, it seems but fair that the out-  
 “rage done to his divine Majesty should be repaired  
 “by outward acts, expressive of sorrow, and directed  
 “to *appease his wrath*, and *avert those scourges which*  
 “*he still reserves in his hand.*” You afterwards  
 state your belief “that the sinner may, by punish-  
 “ing himself, by performing certain works propi-  
 “tiatory before God, avert his *anger.*” (Lectures,  
 ii. 48, 51.) And these, Sir, are not mere in-  
 cautious expressions; they are the natural and  
 necessary result of your doctrine, that remitted  
 sins are still liable to the demands of Divine  
 Justice. For the Scripture teaches us, that *sin*  
 is the object of God’s wrath and vengeance, and  
 if any sin be still subject to the demands of his  
 justice, it is equally subject to those of his wrath  
 and vengeance. So that, according to your doc-

<sup>q</sup> Walenburch, Opera, t. ii. p. 19.

<sup>r</sup> Tournely, De Pœnit. t. ii. p. 3.



trine, the justified and pardoned believer is still liable to God's wrath ! The adopted, beloved, and sanctified child, is still subject to God's vengeance ! God loves and hates, saves and destroys, at the same moment ; and the same beings are at once reckoned with the elect and the reprobate, with angels and with devils ! Can it be possible for absurdity, contradiction, and impiety to go beyond this ? And yet this is the necessary, the inevitable consequence to which your doctrine leads.

Such, Sir, is your doctrine of temporal penalties for remitted sins—a doctrine unsupported by reason and experience, rejected by Scripture, contradictory to itself, and subversive of the Christian's hope of salvation. And yet it is on this doctrine that your whole body of doctrine concerning Satisfaction, Purgatory, and Indulgences vitally depend. Doubt that temporal penalties are by any Divine law now inflicted on sin repented of, and what need can there be for all the Satisfaction prescribed by you for the remission of temporal penalties ? What necessity is there for Purgatory to complete those penalties not discharged in this life ? What need for Indulgences to remit them ? What need for Suffrages and Masses for the dead, to relieve souls from the fiery torments of Purgatory ? These questions I leave for the present to your consideration, and beg to subscribe myself,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PALMER.

*Oxford, April 24, 1841.*



BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

*Just published, price One Shilling,*

A LETTER to N. WISEMAN, D.D. (calling himself Bishop of Melipotamus,) containing REMARKS on his LETTER to Mr. NEWMAN.

*Preparing for publication,*

A THIRD LETTER to N. WISEMAN, D.D. on the ROMISH DOCTRINE OF SATISFACTION.

\* \* \* *This Series of Letters will be continued.*



A

THIRD LETTER

TO

N. WISEMAN, D.D.

ON THE ROMISH DOCTRINE OF

SATISFACTIONS.

---

BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.  
OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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OXFORD,  
JOHN HENRY PARKER ;  
J. G. F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.  
1841.





A

### THIRD LETTER,

&c.

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SIR,

IN my last Letter I demonstrated, that, according to the doctrines generally taught in the Church of Rome, a justified and sanctified person still remains subject to the *wrath* of God ; that a beloved child of God has to dread His *anger* and His *vengeance* ; that the same persons are at the same moment *loved* and *hated* by their Creator and Saviour. These conclusions are intimately and indissolubly connected with your belief, that temporal *punishments* remain to be endured after sin has been pardoned. They lie at the foundation of your doctrine of Satisfaction, Purgatory, and Indulgences. It is my intention to pursue this error into all its ramifications, and to expose the mass of dangerous errors and superstitions, and of absurd contradictions to which it leads, and in which it actually involves all your theologians.

On the present occasion, your doctrine of Satisfaction shall become the subject of discussion ; and

with this view we must in the first instance proceed to ascertain what your tenets really are on this point, and to what practices they give rise.

1. It is your belief then, that after sin has been remitted as far as regards its guilt and eternal penalties, by the merits of Christ's sacrifice applied in the sacrament of Penance, a temporal penalty still remains due to the justice of an offended and angry God; and that this wrath and anger of avenging justice may be *appeased*, and your sin *expiated* and *atoned for* as regards its temporal penalty, by SATISFACTIONS, that is, penitential works, such as prayer, alms-giving, fasting, mortifications, &c.

2. You also believe, that Indulgences *validly* and *effectually* received, remit a portion or the whole of the temporal penalty due to remitted sin, and partially or wholly remove the necessity for satisfactions; but as it is impossible, generally speaking, to know whether the *conditions* on which alone Indulgences are valid, have been fulfilled in any particular case, you therefore hold that penitents ought to *continue* in the performance of works of satisfaction to the *end of their lives*, and never believe themselves relieved from the necessity of expiating and atoning for sin, although that sin may have been remitted and pardoned long before in the sacrament of Penance.

Such is your belief on this point, as I shall now shew by references to your own writings, and to

those of other eminent theologians of the Roman Communion.

I. With reference then to the first point, you say,

“ 1. That God, after the remission of sin, retains  
 “ a lesser chastisement in his power, to be inflicted  
 “ on the sinner. 2. That penitential works [i. e.  
 “ satisfactions], fasting, alms deeds, contrite weep-  
 “ ing, and fervent prayer, have the power of  
 “ averting that punishment. 3. That this scheme  
 “ of God’s *justice* was not a part of the imperfect  
 “ law, but the unvarying ordinance of his dispensa-  
 “ tion, anterior to the Mosaic ritual, and amply  
 “ confirmed by Christ in the Gospel. 4. That it  
 “ consequently becomes a part of all true repent-  
 “ ance to try to *satisfy* this *divine justice*, by the  
 “ voluntary assumption of such penitential works,  
 “ as his revealed truth assures us have efficacy  
 “ before Him. These propositions contain the  
 “ *Catholic doctrine* concerning Satisfaction<sup>a</sup>.”  
 Again: “ When God remits a weight of eternal  
 “ punishment, it seems but fair that the outrage  
 “ done to his Divine Majesty should be repaired  
 “ by outward acts, expressive of sorrow, and  
 “ directed to *appease his wrath*, and avert those  
 “ *scourges* which He still reserves in his hand.  
 “ Hence in the sacrament of Penance, that third  
 “ part which we call *satisfaction*<sup>b</sup>.” Your doctrine

<sup>a</sup> Wiseman’s Lectures on the Doctrines, &c. of the Catholic Church, vol. ii. p. 47.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 48.

is afterwards described to be, “ that sin is forgiven,  
 “ but *punishment* still inflicted; that God will  
 “ chastise in his justice, but that the sinner may,  
 “ by punishing himself, by performing certain  
 “ works propitiatory before God, *avert his anger*,  
 “ and obtain remission of this lesser chastise-  
 “ ment<sup>c</sup>.”

Tournely lays down the following formal proposition.

“ *Penal satisfaction* is necessarily to be exacted  
 “ of penitents, not merely to preserve them in  
 “ newness of life, to heal their infirmity, and to  
 “ afford an example to others, as the Innovators  
 “ imagine; but also in order to punish and chastise  
 “ past sins, or to make real satisfaction, not only  
 “ to the Church but to God; as well to repair the  
 “ injury done to Him by sin, as to *redeem* the  
 “ *temporal punishment*, which after the guilt and  
 “ eternal punishment has been forgiven, remains  
 “ to be discharged by us, either in this life, or  
 “ another<sup>d</sup>.”

Thus then it is plain, as I have said, that you believe satisfactory or penitential works necessary for the remission of the temporal penalty exacted by the justice of a wrathful and angry God, *after* the guilt and eternal punishment of sin have been remitted, and after the penitent has been placed in a state of grace.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 51.

<sup>d</sup> Tournely, De Pœnit. t. ii. p. 4.

II. I now proceed to the second point—the necessity of continual penance, or of works of satisfaction during the remainder of life.

“ We can never be certain,” says Bouvier bishop of Mans, “ that we have obtained by many (even “ most plenary) indulgences, the complete remission “ of all the temporal punishment due to our sins ; “ for a plenary indulgence often becomes partial “ [i. e. remits only a *part* of the temporal punish- “ ment] either through want of a sufficient cause, “ or through want of a work proportioned to the “ end designed, or through defect of dispositions “ in the agent. Hence, first, an indulgence does “ not exempt from the obligation of doing penance “ [by satisfactions] ; and *à fortiori*, a believer can- “ not, of his own authority, omit a sacramental “ penance [satisfaction] *enjoined* to him, under “ pretext that he has gained or is about to gain “ an indulgence.” “ Indulgences of a hundred “ years or more, if there are such, may be insuf- “ ficient to compensate the whole temporal punish- “ ment which a sinner is bound to pay . . . Hence, “ thirdly, sinners truly converted ought to endea- “ vour daily by *good works* [satisfactions] and in- “ dulgences, whether partial or plenary, to dimi- “ nish the debts which they owe to Divine *justice*, “ and to *compensate* for them entirely in this life, “ lest they be sent to the prisons of purgatory, and “ do not come out thence till they have paid the



“ last farthing<sup>f</sup>.” Dr. Milner, one of your nominal bishops, says, “ We do not believe an indulgence “ to imply any exemption from repentance . . . nor “ from the *works of penance*, or other good works, “ because our Church teaches, that ‘ the life of a “ Christian ought to be a *perpetual penance*.’ ” “ (Concil. Trid. de Extr. Unct.) ‘ No one can ever “ be sure that he has gained the entire benefit of “ an indulgence, though he has performed all the “ conditions appointed for this creed.’ ”

Thus<sup>g</sup> it appears that even Indulgences and the execution of the works of satisfaction enjoined by your priests in confession, do not render you secure that sin has been remitted ; and hence you recommend in addition, *voluntary works of satisfaction*, over and above those prescribed by the priest. To these the Council of Trent alludes in the expressions above cited by Dr. Milner ; and the Catechism of the Council speaks thus of them, “ Under “ the same name [*satisfaction*] is signified also any “ sort of punishment which we endure for our sins, “ not imposed by the priest, but undertaken of our “ own accord, and repeated by ourselves. This “ does not by any means belong to Penitence as a “ sacrament<sup>h</sup>.” The use and necessity of such

<sup>f</sup> Bouvier, *ibid.* p. 301 ; See also Tournely, *De Pœnit.* t. ii. p. 299.

<sup>g</sup> Milner, *End of Controversy*, Lett. xlii.

<sup>h</sup> Eodem verò nomine quodlibet etiam pœnæ genus significatur, quam pro peccatis non quidem à sacerdote constitutam,



voluntary penances is thus stated in Dr. James Butler's Catechism sanctioned by the authorities of your schism in Ireland: " Q. Will the penance  
 " enjoined in confession always satisfy for our  
 " sins? A. No; but whatever else is wanting may  
 " be supplied by Indulgences, *and our own peni-*  
 " *tential endeavours*<sup>i</sup>."

And well indeed may you advise your penitents not to remain satisfied with the satisfactions or penances which are imposed on them at Confession, when it is remembered, that according to your most approved writers, the amount of penance assigned in the Confessional is to be measured by *the wishes of the penitent*; that it is considered better to impose so slight a penance as the repetition of a *single Pater Noster*, or even *no penance at all*, rather than send the penitent away unab-solved<sup>k</sup>; and that the penance, if inconvenient,

sed sponte nostra susceptam, atque à nobis ipsis repetitam, sustinemus. *Nota.* Verùm hæc ad pœnitentiam, ut sacramentum est, minimè pertinet. Cat. Conc. Trid. Pars ii. de pœnit. c. 88.

<sup>i</sup> " The most Rev. Dr. James Butler's Catechism, &c. ap-proved and recommended by the four R. C. Archbishops of Ireland as a general Catechism for the kingdom." Eleventh Edition, Coyne, Dublin.

<sup>k</sup> " Rituale Parisiense dicit, ' Confessarius pœnitentem inter-roget, an possit pœnitentiam sibi injunctam peragere, alioquin eam pro sua prudentia immutet, aut minuat.' . . . unde Gerson in *regula mor.* p. 2. c. de pœnitentia, dicit: ' Tutius est cum parva pœnitentia, quæ sponte suscipitur, et verosimiliter ad-impletur, ducere confessos ad purgatorium, quam cum magna non implenda præcipitare in infernum.' . . . item *Scolus d.* 15.

may be *commuted* for another<sup>1</sup>. This system of course makes the imposition of Satisfaction at Confession a mere mockery ; although that Satisfaction is, all the time, loudly asserted to be a part of the sacrament of Penance ; so that we need not wonder to find you recommending penitents not to put their whole confidence in such sacramental Satisfaction.

From all this then it is evident, that you are not certain that the temporal penalty due to divine justice for sin remitted, is removed by the performance of the satisfaction enjoined in Confession, or by the subsequent acquisition of Indulgences. No : you still urge the penitent to undertake voluntary works of penance ; and as no human wisdom

“ q. 1. art. 5. loquens de pœnitente qui animo est infirmus, ait,  
 “ ‘ Si adeo est delicatus, quod non velit jejuniū adimplere,  
 “ imo si nullam pœnitentiam vult recipere, absolvendus est, et  
 “ non respuendus, ne cadat in desperationem,’ et sic demum  
 “ concludit: ‘ Illud sibi imponendum quod libentius recipit,  
 “ et quod creditur impleturus.’ . . . Additque idem S. archie-  
 “ piscopus (*S. Carolus Borromæus*) ‘ Talem imponat pœniten-  
 “ tiam, qualem a pœnitente præstari posse judicet. Proinde  
 “ aliquando, si ita expedire viderit, illum interroget, an possit,  
 “ anve dubitet pœnitentiam sibi injunctam peragere ; alioquin  
 “ eam mutabit aut minuet . . . . . ‘ Itaque (ut inquit *Host.*)  
 “ confessor nullo modo debet permittere peccatorem desperatum  
 “ recedere a se, sed potius imponat ei unum *Pater noster*, vel  
 “ aliud leve, et quod alia bona quæ fecerit, et mala quæ tolera-  
 “ verit, sint ei in pœnitentia, concordante S. Thoma’ &c.”  
 Beati A. M. de Ligorio, *Theologia Moralis*, t. vi. p. 125—128.  
 Ed. Vesontio. 1834 ; see also Bouvier, de Pœnit. p. 147.

<sup>1</sup> Ligorio, *Theol. Mor.* t. vi. p. 144 ; Bouvier, p. 158.

can determine what amount of such acts may be sufficient to satisfy the demands of Divine Justice, it follows that, according to the doctrine of the Council of Trent, “ the life of a Christian ought “ to be a *perpetual penance*.”

But, Sir, painful as such a thought must be, and dispiriting to Christians, your doctrine goes much further than this, if it be examined. For what do you mean, when you say that a person owes a debt to Divine *justice*, and is bound to satisfy for the temporal punishment due to his remitted sin? You mean, that *he is still subject to the wrath and vengeance of an offended God*. What is your own language, when describing the object of satisfactions, or penitential works? “ When God remits a “ weight of eternal punishment, it seems but fair, “ that the *outrage* done to his Divine Majesty “ should be *repaired* by outward acts, expressive “ of sorrow, and directed to *appease his wrath*, and “ avert those *scourges* which he still reserves in his “ hand.” (Lectures, ii. 48.) You believe, as you say, “ that the sinner may, by punishing himself, “ by performing certain works propitiatory before “ God, *avert his anger*, and obtain a remission even “ of this lesser chastisement.” (Lectures, ii. 51.) Tournely, again, speaks of the temporal punishment due to remitted sin, as “ a revenging punishment,” (De Pœn. ii. 4.); and the language of all your writers is just the same. You all maintain, that Satisfactions are intended to appease the “ wrath,”

to mitigate the “ anger,” to avert the “ punish-  
 “ ments” and “ vengeance” of an offended God.  
 Such is the view which you take of God *after he  
 has pardoned your sins*. You believe that notwith-  
 standing that pardon, his wrath burns against you,  
 and is so fierce, that if you are not sufficiently  
 tormented in this life, you must go into Purgatory  
 and *suffer the torments of HELL!* Yes: you believe  
 that God consigns those whom he has justified and  
 sanctified, those whom he loves with a Father’s  
 love, those whom he has endowed with the rich  
 and glorious gifts of faith, hope, and charity, those  
 who are themselves full of filial love and affection  
 to Him—to the torments of Hell! “ *The constant  
 “ doctrine of the Latins,*” says Bouvier bishop of  
 Mans, “ is, that in Purgatory there is a *material  
 “ fire like the infernal fire*, and therefore that the  
 “ Church, in praying for the souls of the faithful,  
 “ asks not only for a place of light and peace, but  
 “ also of cooling (*refrigerii*) ; that is to say, against  
 “ the ardour of the fire <sup>m</sup>. ”

Bellarmino teaches the same doctrine in the  
 following terms. “ As Cardinal Cajetan rightly  
 “ explains, the punishment which remains to be  
 “ expiated after the remission of guilt is that very

<sup>m</sup> Constans Latinorum sententia est in purgatorio esse ignem  
 materialem similem igni infernali, et ideo Ecclesiam pro ani-  
 mabus fidelium orantem, non petere tantum locum lucis et  
 pacis, sed et refrigerii, videlicet contra ignis ardorem. Bouvier,  
 De Pœnit. p. 283.

“ same *sensible* punishment which the sinner ought  
 “ to have suffered in Hell ; its eternity only being  
 “ removed<sup>n</sup>. ”

This, Sir, is the view which you uniformly take of the disposition of God towards penitent and pardoned sinners : you teach them still to tremble under the apprehension of his wrath. And when is this fear to be removed ? when is the sinner to be at peace with God ? when is he to look with joy and love to God as a reconciled and loving Father ? NEVER IN THIS LIFE. You tell him that Absolution cannot appease the anger of God—that sacramental satisfaction cannot do it—that Indulgences even are uncertain—that he must spend *the remainder of his life* in works of voluntary penance—and at last, that he may and probably will go into the torments of HELL for a time. He is then to spend his whole life under the apprehension that he is still subject to God’s wrath and vengeance, and still liable to the demands of his justice.

And is this the *peace* and *consolation* which you offer to burdened consciences ? Are these the blessings which are to flow on those who go to you to heal their wounds, and soothe their afflic-

<sup>n</sup> Nam (ut rectè explicat Card. Cajetan. in tract. de contritione, quæst. 4.) pœna illa quæ luenda restat post culpæ remissionem, est illa ipsa pœna sensus, quam in Gehenna pati debuisset peccator, remota solum æternitate. Bellarmin. De Pœnitentia, lib. iv. c. i.



tions? Let me contrast with this dark and melancholy system, the consoling and joyful words of encouragement offered to penitents by Jesus Christ. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and *I will give you rest*. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find *rest unto your souls*. For my yoke is *easy*, and my burden is *light*." (Matt. xi. 28—30.) Does your system afford *rest to souls*? Is your yoke *easy*, and your burden *light*? I put this question solemnly to your conscience, Whether a system so inconsistent with that of Jesus Christ can be true? You give no "rest" to the souls of penitents, when you tell them that they are still subject to the *wrath* of an offended God. You impose on them no "easy yoke," no "light burden," in enjoining laborious works of satisfaction during life, under an uncertain hope that they may deliver them from the excruciating tortures of Purgatory. Can your doctrine then be true? Can it be the doctrine of Jesus Christ?

Let me again draw your attention to the words of St. Paul in describing the state of justification. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have PEACE WITH GOD, through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and REJOICE in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we *glory in tribulations also*: knowing that tribu-



“ lation worketh patience ; and patience, experience ; and experience, hope ; and hope maketh not ashamed ; because THE LOVE OF GOD is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die ; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth HIS LOVE towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, *being now justified by his blood, we shall be SAVED FROM WRATH through him.* For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also JOY in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.” (Rom. v. 1—11.)

Would to God that these words of the Apostle might sink down into the heart of every one of our separated brethren of the Romish persuasion ! It would almost seem as if the Apostle had written them, under the direction of the Holy Ghost, for the very purpose of refuting the errors against which I am contending. What is your view of the condition of the justified ? You believe that, after their sins are pardoned, they still remain subject to the *wrath* and *vengeance* of God. Is this to have “ *peace with God* ?” You believe

that they are to look forward to painful afflictions from God's *anger* in this world or the next ; to "*the scourges*" of his wrath ; to the tortures of his *revenge* in purgatory. Is this to "*rejoice* in hope of the glory of God?" You look with fear and terror on temporal afflictions, believing them to be punishments for your sins. Is this to "*glory* in *tribulations* also?" You look on God as an angry and vindictive judge, exacting payment to the last farthing, either in this world or in purgatory. Is this to have "*the love of God shed abroad in your hearts* by the Holy Ghost?" You think that after you have been justified by the blood of Christ applied in the sacrament of Penance, you are still subject to "the wrath" of God. Is this to believe that "being now *justified* by Christ's blood, "we shall BE SAVED FROM WRATH through him?" Let this one passage of Scripture be fully and calmly considered, and compared with your doctrines ; and there can be no doubt of the result.

I would again solicit your attention to the words of the Apostle John. "There is no fear in love ; but *perfect love casteth out fear ; because fear hath torment*. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John iv. 18, 19.) The Apostle does not mean to forbid that godly fear of future transgressions, which is necessary to preserve a Christian from sin ; but he does most certainly assert, that the perfect love of God casts out all

slavish fear, all dread of God's *wrath* and *vengeance* for remitted sin, all uneasiness, misery, anxiety under a sense of the Divine *anger*. In this sense "perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment." The man who trembles under a sense of God's wrath, cannot perfectly love him; and thus, Sir, your doctrine renders it impossible for those who receive it to love their Creator "perfectly."

How melancholy is it to see professing Christians so blind to the real character of God! Listen to the Apostle John; "GOD IS LOVE. In this was manifested THE LOVE of God toward us, because that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that HE LOVED us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John iv. 8—10.) We have the testimony of our Lord himself to the same consolatory truth: "God so LOVED the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son." (John iii. 16.) "At that day ye shall ask in my name; and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you; for THE FATHER HIMSELF LOVETH you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." (John xvi. 26, 27.) This most blessed truth is written in every page of the Gospel. What but the most exceeding and infinite *love* and *mercy* could have induced the Father to consign his only-begotten Son to the death of the Cross, for

those who were alienated from him, and dead in trespasses and sins? What but love and mercy could have devised such an awful sacrifice to bring back sinners into the way of salvation,—a salvation which no human merits could ever have obtained? It is this love and mercy which induces the Lord to bear with the sins and offences of his creatures, and which alone leads them to repentance. “De-  
“spisest thou the riches of his goodness, and for-  
“bearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that  
“the *goodness of God* leadeth thee to repentance?” (Rom. ii. 4.) And is it this good, this merciful, this loving Being, whom you regard as a God of wrath and vengeance towards the objects of his love? What deep ingratitude is this? what an injury to that ETERNAL LOVE, which regards the justified and sanctified members of Christ with an affection beyond all human imagination!

In what light does our Saviour represent God in his dealings with repentant sinners? He describes him as a FATHER rejoicing to receive an ungrateful and prodigal son: “When he was yet a great way  
“off, his father saw him, and *had compassion on him*,  
“and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.  
“And the son said unto him, Father, I have  
“sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight, and am  
“no more worthy to be called thy son. But the  
“father said to his servants, Bring forth the best  
“robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his  
“hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the

“fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” (Luke xv. 20—24.) Can any images more forcibly express the love of God towards repentant sinners? Here is no “wrath”—no “vengeance”—no “anger”—but all is joy, and exultation. Here is no “*reserve of punishment*”—no *partial forgiveness*—no exceptions out of the general amnesty—no store of bitter and infernal “tortures” to be rigidly exacted even “to the last farthing.” And yet this is the point of view in which our Lord wishes us to regard the dispositions and dealings of God with real penitents. Do not say to me, that the contrition of the prodigal son was so *intense*, that it remitted all temporal punishment; but that *his* constitutes a peculiar case, and ought not to lead penitents generally to expect an equal degree of Divine love and mercy. For if we examine this case, there was nothing to take it out of the ordinary rules. The prodigal son was reduced to distress by his own vices; “and when he came to himself,” he resolved to arise and go to his father. We do not read of any signs of *extreme* contrition or anguish of soul. We read of no tears, no fastings, no sackcloth, no mortifications; but he merely “arose and came to his father.” This then is the description of every one who is really penitent, and the conduct of God here described is sufficient to shew the error and unsoundness of your doctrine.

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I will not weary the reader by accumulating additional proofs from Scripture of what is so plain and evident ; but shall proceed next to consider the *BURDENS* which your doctrine of *Satisfactions* imposes on Christians—burdens wholly useless and ineffective for the end for which they are imposed—the expiation of remitted sin.

Be it remembered then, that according to your doctrine, penal works of Satisfaction are due to the justice of an angry God, after sin has been pardoned ; and that such works must be continued through life, notwithstanding the performance of the works of Satisfaction assigned in confession, and notwithstanding the execution of all works necessary to gain Indulgences. Now let us consider what these *Satisfactions* are, which you thus recommend your people to continue through life.

Amongst other penal *Satisfactions* for sin, the following are mentioned by Amort°. Concealing one's self for a time in some Monastery or other secluded place, and living in penitence there. Abstaining from meat and wine. Fasting on certain days, especially on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, or feeding only on bread and water. Praying with bended knees, or with the arms extended in the figure of the Cross for a certain time, and at an appointed hour, before the Cross,

° Eusebii Amort, *Theologia Eclectica Moralis et Scholastica* sub auspiciis SS. D. N. Benedicti xiv, &c. t. xiv. p. 405. Ed. August. Vind. 1752.



or some other sacred image in the church. Lying on the ground for some time, or on a hard couch. *Applying the scourge* to one's self on certain days. Putting on *sackcloth*. Undertaking some religious pilgrimage. Reciting the penitential psalms and other penitential prayers. Visiting certain churches where there are stations, or some other great devotion. Weekly fastings during life. Monthly confessions. Prayers every hour or half hour. The office of the Rosary on Sundays and Holy-days.

Amongst penances mentioned by Alphonsus Liguori are, entering a Monastic order, Acts of grief every evening, “to *visit* every day the holy  
“ Sacrament, and *also the image of St. Mary*, be-  
“ seeching from *them* (!) the grace of perseverance;  
“ to recite at least the third part of the Rosary,  
“ and the Angelical salutation three times, every  
“ morning and evening, saying, ‘My mother  
“ assist me to-day, that I sin not against God;’  
“ which penance,” says Liguori, “of thrice reciting  
“ the Angelical salutation with the aforesaid sup-  
“ plication, it was my custom generally to enjoin,  
“ or at least recommend to those who did not use  
“ them.” Another penitential work is, “unre-  
“ mitting recitation of the Angelical salutation in  
“ honour of the purity of the most blessed Virgin,  
“ morning and evening, repeating always before  
“ *her image* the resolution not to commit sin<sup>p</sup>.”

<sup>p</sup> Liguori, *Theologia Moralis*, t. ix, p. 14.

Another is, “ to make the sign of the cross nine or  
 “ five times *on the ground with the tongue*<sup>a</sup>.” Other  
 penances may be assigned at the particular desire  
 of the penitent, though at first with moderation :  
 “ It will be enough to allow them at the beginning  
 “ some small mortification, but seldom ; such as  
 “ *scourging*, an *iron chain*, abstinence, rather to  
 “ inspire a wish for mortifications, than to mortify  
 “ them as is fitting ; and afterwards he [the Con-  
 “ fessor] may deal *more liberally*<sup>r</sup>.” Liguori adds,  
 that ordinary works of Christian piety may be  
 openly performed, such as “ frequenting the Sacra-  
 “ ments, mental prayer, visitation of the Sacrament,  
 “ hearing mass with bended knees and recollection  
 “ of spirit,” &c. “ But works of extraordinary  
 “ supererogation, and which savour of singularity,  
 “ such as the above-mentioned external penances  
 “ of *sackcloth*, *scourges*, *prayer with expanded arms*,  
 “ *eating bitter herbs*, sighings, weeping at time of  
 “ prayer, ought to be concealed as far as possible<sup>s</sup>.”

<sup>a</sup> “ Illi, qui solitus fuit blasphemias proferre, insinuatur ut  
 novies vel quinquies lingua signet crucem super terram.”  
 Ib. p. 15.

<sup>r</sup> Satis erit ab initio eis concedere aliquam tenuem sed raram  
 mortificationem, ut disciplinam, catenulam ferream, abstinen-  
 tiam, potius ad ingerendum in eorum animis mortificationis  
 desiderium, quam ad eos ut convenit mortificandos. Liguori,  
 Theol. Mor. t. ix. p. 123. (Praxis Confessarii, n. 146.)

<sup>s</sup> Opera autem quæ sapiunt singularitatem, ut supra enarratæ  
 pœnitentiæ externæ ciliciorum, flagellorum, orationis cum  
 brachiis in crucem expansis, comestionis herbarum amariorum,

Bouvier Bishop of Mans, in his Treatise on penance, recommends the following penances. Fasting on bread and water; abstinence from meat, wine, and fermented liquors; flagellations and sackcloth; holy pilgrimages, especially those made on foot; watchings at night, and lying on the ground or on a hard bed; genuflexions; extensions of the arms; or other painful postures of the body; abstinence from pleasures, entertainments, games, hunting, riding, rich dress, &c.; pecuniary payments; recitation of the psalms, Rosary, &c.; meditation and mental prayer; a certain number of repetitions of forms, called Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity, Humility, Contrition, &c.; visitation of Churches; adoration of the holy Sacrament; exercises of religion; acts of piety towards our Lord, or towards the blessed Virgin, or towards the Saints<sup>t</sup>.

Morinus mentions the following penances. Walking with bare feet, or without shoes; wearing painful garments; using no carriage or horse; scourging or discipline; repetition of psalters; wearing iron hoops round the body; imprisonment; genuflexions; prostrations on the ground; almsgiving; voluntary exile; entering a monastery, &c. &c.<sup>u</sup> According to Trevern, Bishop of Stras-

*suspiriorum, fletus tempore orationis, &c. occultari debent quantum possibile est. Ibid. p. 124. (n. 147.)*

<sup>t</sup> Bouvier, *De Pœnitentia*, p. 150. (*De operibus injungendis.*)

<sup>u</sup> Morinus, *Tract. de Pœnitentia*, lib. vii. c. 13, 14, 15.

burg; “ true penitents, whether under the Law  
“ or the Gospel, taking in hand the interests of  
“ Heaven, have taken vengeance on themselves,  
“ by voluntary punishments, for the sins they  
“ have committed . . . witness those innumerable  
“ penitents in all ages, who have peopled deserts  
“ and monasteries, and lived there in privations,  
“ and austerities, to *expiate faults pardoned long  
“ before*.\*” So that, according to your view, the  
mortifications of the Saints in all ages are to be  
regarded as so many *penances* voluntarily imposed  
for the expiation of their sins. These are the  
models which are held up for the instruction of  
those who wish to obtain remission of the tem-  
poral penalties supposed to be due to their re-  
mitted sins. And what then are the penances  
which such examples teach you to inflict on your-  
selves?

I shall not bring my readers to the Lives of the  
Saints contained in your Breviary, and point out  
the penances there held up to the admiration and  
imitation of the faithful; such as, Continued ab-  
stinence from food for many weeks; fasting on  
bread and water; living for years in holes ex-  
cavated in the rocks; the use of lacerating ban-  
dages, and iron chains continually worn round  
the body; immersions in freezing water; the ap-  
plication of nettles and scourges; rolling one’s self  
among thorns; the use of belts set with needles;

\* Trevern, Discussion Amicale, tom. ii. p. 206.

of hair shirts ; of iron crowns filled with points inside ; of beds made of rough trunks of trees, and the interstices filled up with pottery. No, these, and many other self-inflicted torments for the expiation of sin *already pardoned*, are well known to all who have investigated this subject, and I therefore need not dwell on them here at any length.

But, Sir, I have to produce evidence as to the penances recommended or allowed amongst you at the present day, from a work to which I have already referred, and which will have additional weight as being known to proceed from your own pen : I mean, “The Lives of St. Alphonsus Liguori, &c.”—a work published only *two years ago*, immediately after the Canonization of the distinguished individuals whose lives it contains. Suffer me then to make some extracts from this very authentic work, in illustration of the system which prevails, and of the species of penances which are authorized, in the Church of Rome.

ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI.—His mode of life with the Society he instituted was as follows. “Their house was small and inconvenient, their beds a mere sack of straw resting on the floor ; and their only food, in general, was a dish of

’ The Lives of St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Francis de Girolamo, St. John Joseph of the Cross, St. Pacificus of San Severino, and St. Veronica Giuliani, whose canonization took place on Trinity Sunday, 26th of May, 1839. London, 1839.



“ soup, which was both insipid and disagreeable,  
“ with a small quantity of fruit. The bread was  
“ black and not even leavened, through the in-  
“ experience of the lay-brother who made it, and  
“ so hard that it was necessary to pound it in a  
“ mortar before they could eat it. This miserable  
“ food, which they ate kneeling or stretched upon  
“ the ground, they rendered still more nauseous,  
“ by sprinkling it over with some bitter stuff,  
“ and many of them, before eating, licked the  
“ floor with their tongue. They disciplined them-  
“ selves three times in each week.” (p. 15.) “ He  
“ surpassed all his companions in the exactness  
“ with which he observed all the rules and obli-  
“ gations of the order; but seeing the severity  
“ with which he disciplined himself, and the  
“ austerity of his fasts and mortifications, it was  
“ a source of wonder how he could live. He  
“ was content with a small quantity of soup and  
“ bread with some fruit, although he never touched  
“ the latter upon Saturday, and the Vigils of our  
“ Lady. He wore continually rough hair-shirts,  
“ with small iron chains and a girdle of camel’s  
“ hair.” (p. 20.)

“ Every morning and evening, the missionaries  
“ preached to the adults and catechized the chil-  
“ dren. For the first three evenings, they went  
“ round the most populous streets with a crucifix,  
“ calling upon the inhabitants to remember the last  
“ things, and to come to hear the word of God.



“ Alphonsus, who delivered the principal sermon in  
“ the evening, was accustomed to discipline himself  
“ with a thick rope three times during the mission ;  
“ once *during the sermon* upon sin ; a second time  
“ during that upon hell ; and a third during that  
“ upon scandal ; and when the women had left the  
“ church, after the evening sermon, and the men  
“ alone remained, a sermon upon compunction was  
“ addressed to them, *to excite them to discipline*  
“ *themselves.*” (p. 24.) “ His food was of the  
“ most inferior kind, and even this he sprinkled  
“ with wormwood and other bitter herbs, so that  
“ the poor, who flocked to him, refused to eat  
“ of what he had left of it. His attendants were  
“ few in number, and he treated them on every  
“ occasion with the greatest kindness and sweet-  
“ ness. His mortifications seemed to increase both  
“ in severity and frequency, and one day his secre-  
“ tary had to burst open his door, and snatch the  
“ discipline out of his hands, fearing lest the  
“ violence wherewith he scourged himself might  
“ cause his death.” (p. 31.)

ST. FRANCIS DI GIROLAMO. “ When the Sunday  
“ came, he first spent two hours in mental prayer,  
“ after which he scourged himself long and severely  
“ with the discipline (a practice he observed daily  
“ at the hour of rising), then said mass.” (p. 72.)  
“ After the discourse on his knees at the foot of  
“ the Cross, he scourged his shoulders with the  
“ discipline, and then once more betook himself to

“ the Confessional.” (p. 73.) “ A youth of dis-  
“ ordered life was so moved by another sermon  
“ of Francis, that in public, overcoming every  
“ human respect, he cast himself at the foot of the  
“ crucifix, exclaiming, ‘ Father, I am lost ; for  
“ nearly twenty years I have not been a confessor,’  
“ and so saying, wept bitterly, and lashed himself  
“ with the discipline.” (p. 93.)

ST. JOHN JOSEPH OF THE CROSS. “ He early  
“ manifested his attachment to the Cross, sleeping  
“ upon a narrow hard bed, and fasting on appointed  
“ days during the week ; and as he mortified the  
“ flesh betimes, so also he checked all pride, by  
“ constantly wearing mean clothes.” (p. 121.)  
“ Once he had to perform a journey of considerable  
“ distance, and set out with alacrity, although his  
“ limbs were afflicted with grievous ulcers. . . . He  
“ had not gone far, when, slipping on the ice, he  
“ fell, and cruelly lacerated his wounded limbs, so  
“ that he could hardly stand upright ; still, with  
“ heroic fortitude and perseverance, he prosecuted  
“ and accomplished his task. . . . . A rough seat  
“ and a table, a bed consisting of two narrow  
“ planks, with two sheep-skins and a wretched  
“ woollen coverlet, a stool to rest his wounded legs  
“ upon—these, with his breviary, formed the whole  
“ furniture of his cell.” (p. 143.)

“ We come now to speak of his extraordinary  
“ mortifications. To the numerous *penitential*  
“ *austerities* enjoined by his order, he added as

“ many more as an ingenious self-denial could  
“ devise. He guarded his senses most particu-  
“ larly ; even in his youth he would not permit  
“ himself the liberty of lifting his eyes to the  
“ roof of his cell ; and when he was a priest, he  
“ made it a rule to look no one whomsoever  
“ in the face. His ears he mortified by denying  
“ them the gratification of music. He would not  
“ even smell a flower. Silent as long as possible,  
“ when he spoke, it was in a low voice. Bare-  
“ headed in all seasons, he wore under his rough  
“ and heavy habit divers hair-shirts and chains,  
“ which he was careful to vary to keep the sense  
“ of torment ever fresh. Besides, he used the  
“ discipline to a severe degree ; and when at the  
“ age of forty, his superior obliged him to wear  
“ sandals, he placed between them and his feet a  
“ quantity of small nails ; but the most tremendous  
“ instrument of torture which he devised against  
“ himself, was a cross about a foot in length,  
“ set with rows of sharp nails, which he fastened  
“ tight over his shoulders, so as to open there  
“ a wound which never after closed. Another  
“ similar but smaller cross he wore attached to  
“ his breast. But his abridgment of sleep was  
“ truly wonderful, and he never took it, save seated  
“ on the ground, or cramped up in his little bed,  
“ often with his head leaning against a piece of  
“ wood jutting from the wall. No less singular  
“ was his abstinence. For the last thirty years of

“ his life, he entirely overcame that most insatiable  
“ of wants, thirst, absolutely abstaining not merely  
“ from wine and water, but from every liquid  
“ whatsoever.” (p. 147, 148.)

ST. PACIFICUS OF SAN SEVERINO. “ As about  
“ the middle of his life he became deaf, his brethren  
“ heard the prayers which he uttered almost with-  
“ out interruption, for he took only three or four  
“ hours of sleep on a bed, so rough and uncomfort-  
“ able, that it seemed made for mortification and  
“ torment, rather than ease and repose. Upon  
“ the vigils preceding the festivals of the Church,  
“ especially those dedicated to our blessed Lady, he  
“ fasted on water and a small piece of bread, which  
“ he had kept for the week before exposed to the  
“ scorching heat of the sun. He went almost barefoot  
“ and without any covering on his legs, although  
“ the ulcers before mentioned inspired compassion  
“ and horror in all who chanced to see them.”  
(p. 181.) “ Pacificus felt a particular devotion  
“ towards his good angel, the chaste spouse of  
“ Mary, St. Joseph, and St. Francis of Assisium,  
“ whose custom of keeping *seven lents* during the  
“ year he faithfully followed, even in his old age,  
“ until his superiors commanded him to abandon  
“ it.” (p. 188.) “ Trusting in the certainty of  
“ divine retribution, he subjected his body to  
“ rigorous fasts, and severe disciplines, to take  
“ which, besides the three times each week pre-  
“ scribed by the rule, he was often watched retiring

“ to the belfry, or some other secret place, that he  
“ might not be seen by men.” (p. 191.)

“ He used every artifice to hide his mortifications  
“ and cruel disciplines from others, and anxiously  
“ sought to conceal the supernatural powers which  
“ God had imparted to him. Who can say with  
“ what severe mortifications and fasts he subdued  
“ his body? Besides fasting, as we have seen,  
“ three times in the week, until his superiors re-  
“ stricted him to Friday and Saturday, whereon he  
“ sometimes did not even taste a morsel of bread  
“ or a drop of water, and the Lents of St. Francis,  
“ he made the little that he did eat a means of  
“ additional mortification, by *mixing his food with*  
“ *ashes*, as was attested by many who observed  
“ him attentively. And another more remarkable  
“ example will confirm what we have just said.  
“ On occasion of the pardon of Asisium, a fair  
“ used in his time to be held in a square, near the  
“ convent of Forano, Pacificus passing through it,  
“ and smelling the flesh of roasted pork, said  
“ several times to his companion, ‘Do you perceive  
“ this smell?’ The other, supposing that he had  
“ a desire of tasting some of the flesh, told the  
“ superior, who immediately ordered a piece of it  
“ to be brought and placed before him at table.  
“ He did not touch it, but requested the brother  
“ who served at table to gratify him by placing it  
“ before him until he should have eaten it. His  
“ request was complied with, and each day it was



“ brought to table, until at last, when it was putrid,  
 “ he eat it, saying to himself, ‘ Eat vile body ; it is  
 “ not pork now as it was at first.’ ” (p. 207, 208.)

“ Besides the regular disciplines prescribed by  
 “ rule three times in the week, he cruelly scourged  
 “ himself thrice each day, with chains or cords, so  
 “ as to fill all with horror, who heard the whistling  
 “ of the lash, or saw the abundance of blood which  
 “ he shed during the flagellation. Covered with  
 “ hair-shirts, he undertook long journeys over  
 “ thorns and sharp stones, slept little, never ap-  
 “ proached the fire, and kept the window and door  
 “ of his cell open, in the most rigorous winters,  
 “ in order to hear the bell summoning him to the  
 “ duties of the community.” (p. 208.) “ Not  
 “ being aware, through his defect in sight and  
 “ hearing, of the presence of any one in his room,  
 “ he rose from his bed, and placing himself devoutly  
 “ on his knees, recited three *Ave Marias*, saying at  
 “ the end, with singular earnestness, ‘ Let these be,  
 “ O my God, *in satisfaction for my sins.*’ He  
 “ would have prayed much longer, but his illness  
 “ prevented him ; and as it became every moment  
 “ more and more violent, the holy Sacrament of  
 “ Extreme Unction was administered.” (p. 217.)

ST. VERONICA GIULIANI. “ When she was about  
 “ three years old, she heard an account of the  
 “ sufferings of the saints, and especially of the  
 “ martyrs,—when she instantly ran and placed her  
 “ hands in a fire, whence she did not draw them



“ out until the whole family had been brought by  
“ the smell into the room.” (p. 226.) “ A desire,”  
she said, “ came into my head of asking my con-  
“ fessor for some mortification, but I did not yield  
“ to it. Still I made sufferings for myself, but all  
“ without my confessor’s leave ; such as the disci-  
“ pline, walking on my bare knees, pricking myself  
“ with a pin, kissing some filthy spot, and beating  
“ myself with thistles. If I heard of the works  
“ of penance performed by others, I went to the  
“ image of my Saviour, and said, ‘ Lord, if I had  
“ their instruments of mortification, I would do the  
“ same ; but since I have them not, I offer thee my  
“ desire.’ He has often let me know and remember  
“ that he made me (at that age) affectionate invi-  
“ tations.” (p. 227, 228.) “ One of the com-  
“ mands given to Veronica after her espousals  
“ [with our Saviour !], was, that she should encrease  
“ her fasting ; and about a year after that event,  
“ she received a direct injunction from God to fast  
“ for three whole years upon nothing but bread and  
“ water.” (p. 257.)

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I shall not further pursue this branch of the subject. What has been now adduced is quite enough for my purpose, which is, to afford some general notion of the consequences which naturally flow from your doctrine of Temporal penalties, and Satisfactions for them. If it be true, as you imagine, that God *reserves* awful “ scourges” in

his hands, when he receives the pardoned sinner into his favour; if God is still in “wrath” and “anger” with justified believers; if they are still liable to the demands of his “justice,” and of his “vengeance;” if the temporal punishments which he “reserves” are, while they last, of the same sort as those of HELL; and if the wrath of God and the infernal tortures which he designs to inflict on his justified and sanctified children, may be *averted* by their inflicting on themselves torments in this life; I most fully admit, that it is the duty of every Christian to live in a state of fear and of torment. No amount of bodily suffering can be considered excessive, if it can appease the wrath of God and avert his vengeance. A soul bowed down beneath the miserable thought that it is not at peace with God, will act naturally and even piously in seeking for the greatest amount of afflictions and mortifications that can be obtained during life. Who that believes in God, and regards him as the Fountain of all good,—who that feels the *reality* of his existence, his promises, and his threatenings, would hesitate to do any works, or submit to any sufferings, in order to gain his favour? Faith would oblige him to stretch forth both his hands for this bitter cup, and drain it to the very dregs.

You therefore act only *consistently*, when your lives are spent in the most dreadful mortifications and penances for remitted sins. You hold that *Con-*

*trition* does not generally remit all the “scourges” due to your sins, or restore you to peace with God; that *Confession* and *Absolution* still leave you in the same state of uncertainty; that *Satisfaction* enjoined by the Confessor does not render you secure; that *Indulgences* may fail; and, in fine, that *voluntary Satisfaction*s, *voluntary penances during life*, are the only remedy which you can adopt in this world. If therefore a Romanist *understands* the system taught by authority in his Church, and be *earnest* in his religious views, he must spend a life of self-inflicted torment.

Nor is this all. If Contrition, and Confession, and Absolution; if imposed Satisfaction, and Indulgences afford no assurance of the remission of God’s “scourges;” what assurance can there be, that a life of torment will avert them? What reasonable assurance can there be, that *self-imposed* obligations can succeed, when the *Divine* method of obtaining remission of sin,—when true Repentance, that “second plank,” as St. Jerome calls it, has failed? For let us consider a moment, that according to your doctrine, a temporal punishment EQUAL TO THAT OF HELL is due to your remitted sins. Now is it to be imagined for a moment, that any penances which we may suffer in this short life, can be an equivalent for torments resembling those of Hell? Remember that you know not *how long* the pains of Purgatory may continue; you know nothing more about them, than that they are

*superior* to any sufferings endured in this life, that they resemble those of Hell. If then Divine JUSTICE is to be satisfied even “to the last farthing,” as you allege; what reasonable ground is there for believing, that even a *life* of self-imposed penances can appease the wrath of God, and save you from the dread scourges of his vengeance in Purgatory?

The necessary result then of your doctrine of Temporal punishments and Satisfaction is, that the contrite and justified child of God, the chosen vessel of his grace, the sanctified instrument of his will, is bound to spend his life in penal labours and self-inflicted torments, without any well-founded hope of appeasing the *wrath* of God. He is to look on his God as still frowning in anger upon him; to think with anguish of the scourges and tortures of the damned, which God is preparing to shower upon him. This is to be his feeling through life; and even in death he is to look on God as still probably *unreconciled*; and as only awaiting the moment of his departure from this life, to hurry his soul into that fire which is prepared for the Devil and his angels!

And is this the hope, is this the peace, the joy, the consolation, which you offer to Christians? You are loud in your assurances that the sacrament of Penance brings peace and consolation to the wounded conscience. According to the Council of Trent, “the substance and effect of the sacrament

“ of Penance, as far as relates to its power and  
 “ efficacy, is *reconciliation with God*, which some-  
 “ times produces in pious persons, and those who  
 “ receive this sacrament with devotion, *peace and*  
 “ *tranquillity of conscience*, with *vehement consolation*  
 “ *of spirit* <sup>p</sup>.” In the same manner, the Catechism  
 of the Council of Trent observes, that “ the whole  
 “ efficacy of Penitence consists in its restoring us  
 “ to the favour of God, and uniting us in the  
 “ utmost friendship with Him; and this reconcili-  
 “ ation is sometimes followed in the case of pious  
 “ men who receive this sacrament in a holy and  
 “ religious manner, by the *greatest peace and tran-*  
 “ *quillity of conscience*, with *exceeding joyfulness of*  
 “ *spirit* <sup>a</sup>.” Dr. Miller, one of your nominal  
 bishops, apostrophizes the sacrament of Penance  
 thus: “ *O sweet balm of the wounded spirit! O*  
 “ *sovereign restorative of the soul's life and*  
 “ *vigour* <sup>b</sup>!” and observes, that Romanists con-  
 tinually find persons who are desirous “ of laying the  
 “ sins of their youth and their ignorances at the feet  
 “ of some one or other of” the Romish ministers,  
 “ convinced that thereby they would procure *ease*  
 “ *to their afflicted souls* <sup>c</sup>.” Trevern, Bishop of Stras-  
 burg, in describing the penitence of a Roman  
 Catholic, says, that his spiritual director, “ when he

<sup>p</sup> Conc. Trid. Sessio xiv. c. iii.

<sup>a</sup> Catechismus, Pars ii. c. xxxiii.

<sup>b</sup> End of Controversy, Lett. xx.

<sup>c</sup> Ib. Lett. xli.



“ judges him sufficiently disposed, exhorts him to  
 “ employ redoubled fervour in his approaches to  
 “ reconciliation, in order to obtain by humble  
 “ prayers God’s ratification of the sentence of  
 “ pardon which will be pronounced to him on  
 “ earth: when the moment has arrived, he pro-  
 “ nounces solemnly this wished for Absolution;  
 “ then *consolation, calm, and ease*, enter the con-  
 “ science of the penitent, in place of the *burden*  
 “ which had before oppressed him. *He feels him-  
 “ self altogether different from what he was; he is no  
 “ more the same man*<sup>d</sup>.”

Such are the delights which you promise in the sacrament of Penance; but how delusively! Is it consolation, to know that we are still, after the remission of sins, liable to the demands of “ Divine justice?” Is it peace, to feel that we are still subject to God’s “ wrath?” Is it joy, to think that we are subject to his “ vengeance;” to the “ scourges which he still retains in his hands?” Is it rest, to feel that a life of torment will not suffice to appease the “ anger” of God, and that even beyond the grave his “ vengeance” will pursue us amidst the torments of the damned? Is this peace, consolation, reconciliation, calmness, tranquillity of conscience, hope in this world and in the next? Nay, is this REMISSION OF SINS?

What is Remission of sins, if it be not remission of their *penalties*, and of the *anger* of God so justly

<sup>d</sup> Discuss. Amic. t. ii. p. 201.



due to them? If the penalties of sin were retained, sin would not be remitted. When we say that a sin is pardoned, we mean that God forgives its guilt and its penalties, that He is reconciled to the penitent sinner, and that his anger is appeased. If then, as you maintain, God is still unreconciled to the sinner, still in wrath, still seeking for punishment, still reserving some of the scourges due to sin; it cannot be that sin has been remitted—the sinner must still be alienated from God; unless you would maintain that God is reconciled and unreconciled, forgiving and unforgiving, appeased and unappeased, angry and well-pleased at the same moment towards the same person.

Your doctrine, Sir, needs only to be known, to secure its rejection by every one who can (even imperfectly) feel the love and mercy of God, the consistency of his dealings with his creatures, the nature of the remission of sins, and the privileges of a state of justification and grace. To state your doctrine is to refute it. This is all I have been able to do in this Letter; I have not entered on any refutation of the arguments you advance in its favour, nor have I brought the weight of Scripture and of Catholic Tradition to its overthrow. This must form the subject of another Letter; but before I close the present, I must make some further observations on the subject of satisfactions and

mortifications, with a view to prevent misrepresentations.

Do not imagine then, that in condemning the load of observances, of servile works, and of self-inflicted tortures, which your system imposes on its votaries, with a view to obtain remission of the temporal penalties of their sins, we mean in any degree to remove the obligation of self-denial, and the expediency of a reasonable degree of mortification. We have no intention to speak with any thing except reverence of the austerities of the ancient saints, though they may appear to us in several instances excessive, and not to be imitated. But the reason for which we distinguish between these austerities and those which you recommend is, because they are performed on totally different motives. The saints of old mortified their senses ; underwent many afflictions ; sat in sackcloth and ashes ; wept and mourned ; spent their lives in self-denial ; were abundant in fruits of penitence : but what was their *motive* ? It was either to obtain remission of sin *not yet remitted*, or else to mortify the passions and wishes of the natural man, and to conform themselves to the image of their Divine Master. Their *motive* then was what we cannot but approve ; though we may not think it necessary for Christians to undertake such *severe* exercises of self-denial as many holy men have practised.

But what is *your* motive in recommending such

painful works? It is to obtain remission of a portion of the penalties of sin *already remitted*: it is to appease the anger of a God, whose anger is *already appeased*. Mortifications have with you taken a new character: they are no longer merely what they were to the saints, means of subduing evil habits and inclinations, and of detaching the soul from sublunary concerns. No: they are *expiations for sins remitted—atonements* made to an offended God for sins which He has *pardoned*. *Such* mortifications and penances are worse than useless. They are mistaken; injurious to God; inconsistent with the spirit of the Gospel, and with the belief and practice of Catholic Antiquity. It is to *such* satisfactions that we do most strongly object, and against which we shall always contend to the utmost of our power.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PALMER.

*Oxford, May 3, 1841.*



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A

# FOURTH LETTER

TO

N. WISEMAN, D.D.

ON THE ROMISH DOCTRINE OF

SATISFACTIONS.

(CONCLUDED.)

---

BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.  
OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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OXFORD,  
JOHN HENRY PARKER ;  
J. G. F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.  
1841.



A  
FOURTH LETTER,

&c.

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SIR,

IN my last Letter little more was done than to *state* your doctrine of Satisfaction, and to point out a few of its consequences. I am persuaded that a candid examination of those consequences, and of the contrasts (also noticed) between the Gospel and your doctrines on this subject, ought to suffice for the satisfaction of any reasonable mind; but in order to prevent any possibility of escape, it may be advisable to examine in detail the various arguments which yourself and other Romish controversialists have advanced, in support of your view of Satisfaction, and to establish the Catholic doctrine opposed to yours by the authority of Scripture and of Catholic Tradition.

Let me then again state your doctrine of Satisfaction. According to the Catechism of Trent, "Satisfaction is *compensation* for the injury done "to another<sup>a</sup>," and more particularly "that com-

<sup>a</sup> Ita satisfactio nihil aliud est quam injuriæ alteri illatæ compensatio. Pars ii. c. 85.

“*pensation*, when man *pays somewhat to God for* “*the sins which he has committed*”<sup>b</sup>.” Tournely says, that Satisfaction is “*the payment of a debt* “*which was contracted by sin or by offending* “*God*”<sup>c</sup>.” You yourself and other Roman theologians always employ the term as equivalent to the *payment of a debt* due to Divine Justice.

With reference to the particular debt which is to be discharged by Satisfaction, you speak thus: “We believe that upon this forgiveness of sins, [in “the Sacrament of Penance,] that is, after the “remission of that eternal debt, which God in his “justice awards to transgressions against his law, “he has been pleased to reserve a certain degree “of inferior or temporary punishment, appropriate “to the guilt which had been incurred; and it is “on this part of the punishment *alone*, that, ac- “cording to the Catholic doctrine, satisfaction can “be made to God.” (Lectures ii. 41.)

What are your arguments in support of this doctrine?

I. You appeal to our “natural feelings” in proof that calamities and sufferings in this world are intended as punishments for our sins pardoned. (p. 42.) That appeal I have already answered, and have proved, that this attempt to connect suffering

<sup>b</sup> Cùm homo pro peccatis commissis Deo aliquid persolvit. Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Solutio est debiti quod contractum est ex delicto seu offensâ Dei. De Pœnit. t. ii, p. 2.

with the sin of him who commits it, leads to the inference that our Lord himself was sinful, which is a damnable heresy. I have also shewn, that it is an article of faith that calamities and sufferings are sent to the justified, in order to purify their hearts, and to procure for them a higher degree of glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

II. Your next appeal is to the holy Scripture. "The very first principles of moral conduct, whether in the Old or the New Law, seem connected with the necessity of purifications and works, painful or disagreeable, or with sufferings sent by Divine Providence, as inflictions justly deserved. Thus, we remark constantly in the Old Law visible demonstrations of repentance and sorrow, *after sin has been forgiven.*" (Lectures ii. 43.)

In proof of this, we are referred (p. 43.) to the case of David's punishment for his conduct to Uriah (2 Kings xii. 14.); to the chastisement inflicted for numbering the people (2 Kings xxiv. 11.); and to the penalty suffered by Moses and Aaron for their sin, (Numb. xx. 12, 24. Deut. xxxiv. 4.) These passages have been examined in my Second Letter, in which it has been shewn, that God's mode of dealing with mankind in those ages *required* the infliction of such punishments, but that under the Gospel they are no longer requisite. In the *second* case mentioned, the

chastisement was not inflicted for *pardoned* sin, and therefore it cannot assist you.

Your next proofs are as follows: “ We see  
“ Job, after he had transgressed in words, or  
“ rather exceeded in speech, therefore humbling  
“ himself, and declaring that he did penance in  
“ dust and ashes (Job xlii. 6.); when the men of  
“ Nineveh had their destruction proclaimed to them  
“ by the Prophet, the most obvious and natural  
“ expiation of their sins, appeared to them the  
“ publication of a general fast; and all from the  
“ king on his throne to the very animals in their  
“ stalls, were commanded to fast for three days,  
“ saying, ‘ Who can tell if God will turn and for-  
“ give, and will turn away from his fierce anger,  
“ and we shall not perish. (Jonas iii. 9.)”

Nothing, Sir, can more plainly demonstrate the difficulty under which you labour in the attempt to procure the support of Scripture for your doctrine, than this most unhappy appeal to the cases of Job, and of the men of Nineveh. It is perfectly clear, that penitential works in both these instances were intended to obtain remission of the *guilt* and *punishment* of sin *not yet pardoned*, and that there is not the remotest ground for imagining, that they were designed to avert the *temporal* penalties of *remitted* sin. Job declares his “repentance in dust and ashes” *immediately after he had been rebuked by God*, (chapter xl. xli.)



The inhabitants of Nineveh repented with fasting, *immediately after* it had been said to them by Jonas, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." (Jonah iii. 4.) It was only *after* their "fasting" and "turning from their evil ways," that God "repented of the evil that he had said that he "would do unto them; and he did it not," (verse 10.) Their sin, in short, was only forgiven *after* they had performed penitential works, whereas your doctrine is, that sin is forgiven *before* such works are offered, and that the latter only avert its temporal penalties. I shall hereafter prove to you, that works of repentance are necessary to the *forgiveness of sin*—a truth which your theologians *deny*, notwithstanding all their pretended advocacy of that branch of Repentance. The examples of Job and of the men of Nineveh establish this doctrine, while they are wholly opposed to your view.

You observe, that "our first parents' sin was forgiven, and yet the most bitter consequences were entailed on them and their posterity on its account (p. 44.);" but you forget that the sin of Adam, which has passed on *all men*, can be no measure of the effects of *other sins*; and that a sin, which God was bound *by his own special promise* to punish with temporal death, is widely different from *our sins*, which are under no such threat.

You next proceed to argue, that "if we find

“ God, from the beginning, forgiving sins with the  
“ reservation of some smaller punishment, and at  
“ the same time, his chosen servants, instructed  
“ by him, acting under the conviction, that by  
“ penitential acts that punishment could be averted  
“ or mitigated, we have equal reason to maintain,  
“ so long as there is nothing positively defined to  
“ the contrary, that the punishment and its ex-  
“ piation are continued in the New Testament.”  
(Lectures ii. 44.)

I deny that the reserve of temporal punishments in some instances under the former dispensations, after sin has been remitted, implies any similar mode of dealing under the New Testament; because under former dispensations, God visibly ruled the world by a system of temporal rewards and punishments; and had *notorious* sin escaped without *any* penalty, (except in cases where God himself prescribed a way of remission, such as the offering of sacrifice,) the economy of the Divine government would have been disturbed, sin would have been encouraged, and its penalties no longer feared. But under the New Testament, God does not visibly govern the world by temporal rewards and punishments, therefore it is not necessary under the Gospel that remitted sin should be temporally punished; and no argument can be brought from God's conduct in this respect under former dispensations.

But besides this, I deny that there is any thing

in the Old Testament, to lead us to suppose that temporal penalties threatened to remitted sins can be *averted*. Did David succeed in averting them by all his satisfactions or penitential works? Did Adam and Eve try to avert them? Did Moses and Aaron? As to the penitential works of Job, and of the men of Nineveh, they were intended to procure remission of *sin*, not merely remission of its temporal penalties after sin had been pardoned. I admit that penitential works are continued under the New Testament, but they are continued for something more than the remission of the *temporal penalties* of sin.

As to the objection to human satisfaction, arising “from its being considered essentially derogating “to Christ’s infinite merits,” (Lectures ii. 45.) I am not disposed to maintain the validity of this objection here; because it would lead to a lengthened discussion, and the objection may in one sense be valid, and in another invalid. I shall therefore proceed to other matters.

Let us come then to your proofs from the New Testament. “Does our Saviour ever tell us, that “from thenceforth fasting, one of the most usual “methods for afflicting the soul for sin committed, “shall cease under his law? Does he not, on the “contrary, assure us, that the moment he, the “bridegroom, should be taken away, his children “should fast?” (p. 46.)

Certainly, he does so; but at the same moment

he does not give the *slightest hint* that we are to fast for the purpose of procuring remission of the temporal penalties of our pardoned sins—which is exactly the point you have to establish.

“ Did he reprove those who had believed that  
 “ penance in sackcloth and ashes was efficacious  
 “ for the forgiveness of sin ; and not rather propose  
 “ them as an example, and say that the men of  
 “ Nineveh shall arise in judgment against that  
 “ generation, because at the preaching of Jonas,  
 “ they did penance in that way?” (Ibid.)

All very true, and at the same time *destructive of your doctrine*. For if our Saviour proposed as an example, those who “ believed that penance in  
 “ sackcloth and ashes was efficacious for the *for-*  
 “ *giveness of sin,*” he censured those who believe that “ *upon the forgiveness of sins,* that is, *after the*  
 “ remission of that eternal debt,” God reserves a *temporal* punishment, and that “ it is on this part  
 “ of the punishment ALONE,” that “ satisfaction  
 “ can be made to God.” (p. 41.) I ask you therefore in your own words ; “ Does he, on any single  
 “ occasion, limit the efficacy of these practices, and  
 “ tell his disciples, that if hitherto they have been  
 “ considered of value towards the REMISSION OF  
 “ SIN, they had from that moment lost that worth,  
 “ and were to be employed in future upon different  
 “ principles, and for different motives ?” (p. 46.) How can you answer this question of your own ? You do not admit that *Satisfactions remit sin,*

though Jonah, and the men of Nineveh, and our Lord himself, as you allow, teach that they *do* remit sin. You believe that *sin is remitted before satisfactions are undertaken*; that satisfactions are not necessary for the remission of sin, but *only* for the remission of its temporal penalties. What have you to say then?

Your concluding argument is as follows :

“ But what shall we say of the language of St. Paul, when he declares, writing to the Colossians, “ ‘ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up those things which are wanting of the sufferings of Christ, in my flesh, for his body, which is the Church ? ’ (Coloss. i. 24.) What is wanting of Christ’s sufferings ! And this to be supplied by man, and in his flesh ! What sort of doctrine call we this ? Is it in favour of the completeness of Christ’s sufferings, as to their application ? Or rather does it not suppose that much is to be done by man, towards possessing himself of the treasures laid up in our Saviour’s redemption ? And that suffering is the means whereby this application is made ? ” (p. 47.)

Well : suppose all this true, and how does it prove your doctrine ? Suppose if you please, that “ much is to be done by man,” and “ that suffering is the [a] means whereby this application is made.” Does *this* prove that suffering is the means of obtaining remission of the *temporal penalties of pardoned sins* ? I see no connexion whatever



between such a conclusion, and those to which you have actually come. Suppose that sufferings inflicted by God (of which the Apostle speaks) conform the Christian to his Divine Master, and obtain a greater degree of glory; surely it does not follow, that sufferings, whether voluntarily undertaken, or imposed by God, remit the temporal penalties of forgiven sin. This may pass for good reasoning in the "*Roman schools*," but it is really quite beyond our dull northern understandings.

III. I now come to your proofs from Tradition, omitting various explanations which you afford as to the practice of your Church in the matter of Satisfaction.

" If what I have stated be the doctrine of the  
" Gospel, we must naturally expect to find some  
" institution in the Church from its earliest times,  
" for the faithful practice of so essential a part of  
" God's dispensations. And accordingly from the  
" beginning, we find nothing so prominently in-  
" culcated, either in the writings of the early  
" Fathers, or in the discipline of the universal  
" Church, as this *necessity* of doing penance and  
" making satisfaction to God. It is the basis of  
" the system, known by the name of the peni-  
" tential canons, in which those who had trans-  
" gressed were condemned to different punishments,  
" according to the measure of their offences. . . .  
" This system surely must have had its root in  
" the strong conviction of the early Church, that



“ such practices were meritorious in the sight of  
“ God ; that they brought down *his mercy on the*  
“ *sinner, and propitiated his wrath.* And what is  
“ all this but the belief of the doctrine of Satis-  
“ faction ?” (p. 49.)

Excuse me, Sir ; this is indeed *a* doctrine of Satisfaction ; but it is not yours. The primitive Church did, as you say, believe that penitential works “ brought down God’s mercy on sinners, “ and propitiated his wrath,” but they never believed that after the sinner was placed in a state of grace by the remission of his sins, he was *still* bound to perform penitential works with a view to appease the “ wrath” of God. No, Sir, the Satisfactions required by the primitive Church were, as you doubtless know perfectly well, performed *before* Absolution was given, or the penitent restored to Communion<sup>d</sup>. *After* that restoration, no one ever dreamt of exacting penance from those who were thus reconciled, except when they had been admitted to Communion under the immediate apprehension of death. Thus then the whole practice of the primitive Church with reference to penances is wholly subversive of your doctrine. The primitive Church required penitential works before the remission of sin, therefore she believed

<sup>d</sup> See Morinus de Pœnitentia, lib. ix. c. 3, 15, 17, where he proves, that except in very peculiar and extreme cases, Absolution was given *after* Satisfaction had been performed, even up to the *twelfth* century.

them necessary to obtain the remission of *sin* ("culpa" as well as "poena"); and she exacted no such works *after* sin was remitted, therefore she either did not believe them necessary for the remission of temporal penalties, or else held that they were unavailing. Be assured, Sir, that you will not find me amongst those modern "writers" to whom you allude, "who have treated of the practice of the Catholic Church upon this point, as derived from the Fathers," and who, as you say, "*fairly give it up.*" (p. 49.)

The passages which you proceed to quote from the Fathers are all condemnatory of your doctrine and practice, and directly establish that which I shall presently maintain in opposition to yours.

St. Cyprian, you say, writes thus: "Do entire penance; evince the contrition of a sorrowing and grieving mind. That penance which may satisfy, remains alone to be done; but they shut the door to satisfaction, who deny the necessity of penance. Whoso shall thus have made satisfaction to God, and, by penance for his sin, have acquired more courage and confidence from the very circumstance of his fall, he whom the Lord has heard and aided, shall give joy to the Church; he shall deserve not pardon only, but a crown." On this your own remark is, "whoever then does this penance, can merit not only *pardon*, but a *crown of eternal reward.*" (p. 50.)

I do not offer any remarks on the inaccurate and garbled nature of this quotation from St. Cyprian, though they are richly merited; but shall merely observe, that this holy Father, even according to your own interpretation, regarded penitential works or satisfactions as means of obtaining "pardon" of sins, and "a crown of eternal reward." His notions of the value of satisfactions were therefore widely different from yours. You believe that sin and its eternal punishment are remitted *before* penitential works are performed. St. Cyprian believed such works necessary to the *remission of sin*; and in the Treatise from which the above passage is taken, condemns most vehemently those who admitted penitents to Communion, without any previous satisfaction.

"In the following and in succeeding centuries," you say, "we have innumerable passages from the Fathers who wrote regarding the penitential canons; we have them laying it down as the principle of those laws, that *satisfaction was necessary to expiate offences committed.*" (p. 50.)

Certainly, Sir, they held penitential works necessary for the remission of sins *in general*, not merely for the remission of its *temporal penalties*, which is, you assure us, "the Catholic doctrine." (p. 41.) Therefore, by your own shewing, the Fathers are opposed to your doctrines. I pass on to your citations from St. Augustine, which are equally apposite for my purpose. The first is as follows:

“ It is not *enough* that the sinner change his  
 “ ways, and depart from his evil works, unless by  
 “ penitential sorrow, by humble tears, by the sacri-  
 “ fice of a contrite heart, and by alms-deeds, he  
 “ make satisfaction to *God for what he has com-*  
 “ *mited.*” (p. 50.)

Here is not a single word of Satisfaction as remit-  
 ting only the *temporal* penalties of sin. The peni-  
 tential works here recommended as necessary, were  
 for the purpose of obtaining pardon of “ what the  
 “ sinner has committed,” i. e. of his sin, his whole  
 sin, *guilt* as well as *punishment*, *eternal* as well as  
*temporal* punishment.

“ In the following words we have our doctrine  
 “ clearly laid down, that God, after he has par-  
 “ doned sin, still punishes it in his *justice*. ‘ Wash  
 “ me from my sin,’ said David.—Implore mercy,  
 “ but lose not sight of justice. In his mercy God  
 “ pardons sin: he punishes it in his justice. But  
 “ what? Dost thou seek for mercy, and shall sin  
 “ remain unpunished? Let David, let other sinners  
 “ answer; let them answer with David, that with  
 “ him they may find mercy, and say, ‘ Lord, my sin  
 “ shall not remain unpunished: I know his justice,  
 “ whose mercy I seek. It shall not remain un-  
 “ punished: but that thou mayest not punish it,  
 “ I myself will.’ Is not this precisely, word for  
 “ word, the Catholic doctrine at this time?”  
 (p. 50.)

Undoubtedly, Sir, it is the Catholic doctrine, but

it is not the *Romish*. St. Augustine is not speaking of *pardoned* sin. He does not recommend punishments for *pardoned* sin. He warns sinners not to depend on the *mercy* of God for the pardon of their sins, while His *justice* requires their punishment; and in order to avert the latter—the *full punishment* of sin, not merely its *temporal* punishment,—he advises them to punish themselves by penitential works. These works were intended to procure the *pardon of sin*, not to procure the remission of the temporal penalties of sin *already pardoned*. Therefore St. Augustine subverts your doctrine.

Such, Sir, are your citations from the Fathers! Such is the result of your appeal to Catholic tradition! You will presently find that Tradition is stored with arguments against your doctrine. The only embarrassment indeed is to know what to select from the vast and multitudinous body of evidence which may be brought to bear against you.

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Having thus examined and proved the inconclusiveness of all your arguments in favour of the Romish doctrine of Satisfaction, I proceed to establish the Catholic doctrine on this subject, taught by Scripture, and received by the Catholic Fathers, the Church of England, and the Reformation, and even admitted by the Council of Trent, and by some of your own most eminent divines.



The position then which I shall maintain against you is, that “ penitential works, such as fasting, “ almsgiving, weeping, and works of piety, are, “ together with contrition and confession to God, “ means of obtaining the REMISSION OF SIN, and not “ merely the remission of its temporal penalties.”

It is not meant, that every sort of penitential work is requisite in every case of repentance, but in general, that *some* fruits or works of repentance are always parts of true repentance.

The reason for which such works are expected from him who desires to return into the favour of God is, because Repentance, unaccompanied by any fruits of a changed mind, would be *dead* and unprofitable. Our Lord himself lays it down as a principle, “ Ye shall know them by their *fruits*. “ Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of “ thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth “ good fruit, but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil “ fruit.” Matt. vii. 16. If Repentance then brings forth no fruits of repentance, no signs of contrition, of humiliation, of charity towards God and man; it is not a genuine repentance. The Apostle teaches us to judge of the reality of *Faith* by its fruits: “ Faith without works is *dead*.” James ii. 20. And so likewise is Repentance, without its works, dead; for what is Repentance, but Faith mourning over sin, and stimulated by love to newness of life?

Repentance then, without *works* of repentance, or external signs of a changed heart, (which the



Fathers often call *Satisfactions*\*,) is a dead and unprofitable repentance, and does not procure the remission of sins. I speak here of the *ordinary* course of God's dealings with man; for as I do not deny, that God has in some cases saved believers without the actual performance of *good works*; so there is no difficulty in supposing that He also reserves the power of saving penitents (in some peculiar cases) without *works of penitence*. But these are special exceptions from the ordinary course of his government.

The doctrine which I have just stated, is in accordance with that of the Church of England, as will appear by the following extracts from the Homilies.

“ When the whole multitude of men, women, and children, in a township or city, yea through a whole country, do fast, it is called a public fast. Such was that fast which the whole multitude of

\* When the Fathers speak of “ *Satisfactions*” and of “ *satisfying God*,” they did not mean that man can *pay the debt* which is due for *his sin*, and which the merits of Christ alone can discharge: their meaning was, that man may, through Divine grace, do works expressive of contrition, and thus tending to propitiate God's favour. We still retain in some degree the ancient meaning of the term, when we say, that “ *we are satisfied with such a person*,” i.e. *contented* at his conduct. “ *Satisfaction*” also was often used to express the Canonical penance, the *right* performance of which was supposed to restore the penitent to the Divine favour. Dallæus, de Pœnis, l. vii. c. 4. furnishes many examples.

“ the children of Israel were commanded to keep the  
“ tenth day of the seventh month, because Almighty  
“ God appointed that day to be a cleansing day,  
“ a day of atonement, a time of *reconciliation*, a  
“ day wherein the people *were cleansed from their*  
“ *sins*. The order and manner how it was done is  
“ written in the sixteenth and twenty-third chapter  
“ of Leviticus. That day the people did *lament*,  
“ *mourn, weep, and bewail* their former sins. And  
“ whosoever upon that day did not *humble his soul*,  
“ *bewail his sins*, as is said, *abstaining from all*  
“ *bodily food* until the evening, ‘ that soul,’ saith  
“ Almighty God, ‘ should be destroyed from among  
“ his people’ . . . Upon the ordinance of the general  
“ fast, good men took occasion to appoint to them-  
“ selves private fasts, at such times as they did  
“ either earnestly lament their *sinful lives*, or did  
“ addict themselves to more fervent prayer, that it  
“ might please God *to turn his wrath from them*,  
“ when either they were admonished and brought  
“ to the consideration thereof by the preaching of the  
“ Prophets, or otherwise when they saw present  
“ danger hang over their heads. This *sorrow-*  
“ *fulness of heart* joined with *fasting*, they uttered  
“ sometimes by their outward behaviour and gesture  
“ of body, putting on sackcloth, sprinkling them-  
“ selves with ashes and dust, and sitting or lying  
“ upon the earth.

“ For when good men feel in themselves the  
“ heavy burden of sin, see damnation to be the

“ reward of it, and behold with the eye of their  
“ mind the horror of hell, they tremble, they  
“ quake, and are inwardly touched with sorrow-  
“ fulness of heart for their offences, and cannot but  
“ accuse themselves, and open this their grief unto  
“ Almighty God, and call unto him for mercy.  
“ This being done seriously, their mind is so occu-  
“ pied, partly with sorrow and heaviness, partly  
“ with an earnest desire to be delivered from this  
“ danger of hell and damnation, that *all desire of*  
“ *meat and drink is laid apart*, and loathsomeness  
“ of all worldly things and pleasures cometh in  
“ place; so that nothing then liketh them more,  
“ than *to weep, to lament, to mourn, and both with*  
“ *words and behaviour of body, to shew themselves*  
“ *weary of this life*. Thus did David fast when he  
“ made intercession to Almighty God for the child’s  
“ life. . . . King Ahab fasted after this sort, when  
“ it repented him of murdering of Naboth, bewailing  
“ his own sinful doings. Such was the Ninevites’  
“ fast, brought to repentance by Jonas’s preaching.  
“ When forty thousand of the Israelites were slain  
“ in battle against the Benjamites, the Scripture  
“ saith, ‘ All the children of Israel, and the whole  
“ multitude of the people, went to Bethel, and sat  
“ there weeping before the Lord, and fasted all  
“ that day till night.’ So did Daniel, Esther,  
“ Nehemiah, and many others in the Old Testa-  
“ ment, fast<sup>f</sup>.”

<sup>f</sup> Sermon of Fasting, Part I.

“ It is our part to rend our hearts and not our garments, as we are advertised by the Prophet Joel; that is, our *sorrow and mourning* must be inward in the heart, and not in outward shew only.” . . . . Amongst the ends of fasting the following is mentioned: “ That our fast be a testimony and witness with us before God, of our humble submission to his high Majesty, when we confess and acknowledge our sins unto him, and are inwardly touched with sorrowfulness of heart, bewailing the same in the *affliction of our bodies.*” (Ibid.)

In allusion to the case of the people of Nineveh the Homily says, “ And upon this their hearty repentance, thus *declared outwardly* with fasting, renting of their clothes, putting on sackcloth, and sprinkling themselves with dust and ashes, the Scripture saith, ‘ God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God repented of the evil, &c.’ ”

Thus far we have seen fasting and mortifications considered as parts of true Repentance. We now come to almsgiving.

“ ‘ Give alms,’ saith he (our Lord), ‘ and behold all things are clean unto you.’ He teacheth them, that to be merciful and charitable in helping the poor, is the means to keep the soul pure and clean in the sight of God. We are taught therefore by this, that merciful alms-dealing is

“ profitable to purge the soul from the infection  
 “ and filthy spots of sin. The same lesson doth  
 “ the Holy Ghost also teach in sundry places of  
 “ the Scripture, saying, ‘ Mercifulness and alms-  
 “ giving purgeth from all sins, and delivereth  
 “ from death, and suffereth not the soul to come  
 “ into darkness.’ A great confidence may they  
 “ have before the high God that shew mercy and  
 “ compassion to them that are afflicted. The wise  
 “ preacher, the Son of Sirach, confirmeth the same,  
 “ when he saith, ‘ that as water quencheth burn-  
 “ ing fire, even so mercy and alms resisteth and  
 “ reconcileth sins.’ . . . . Wherefore that holy  
 “ Father Cyprian taketh good occasion to exhort  
 “ earnestly . . . to relieve the needy and help  
 “ the afflicted, by the which we may purge our  
 “ sins and heal our wounded souls<sup>h</sup>.”

In the Homily which treats particularly of Re-  
 pentance, it is stated, that God requires in real  
 penitents not only to forsake their sins, but to give  
 their hearts, souls, and bodies to the service of  
 God. “ And because that we are letted by the  
 “ natural corruption of our own flesh, and the  
 “ wicked affections of the same, he doth bid us also  
 “ return with *fasting* . . . whereunto he doth add,  
 “ *weeping and mourning*, which do contain an out-  
 “ ward profession of repentance, which is very  
 “ needful and necessary<sup>i</sup>.”

<sup>h</sup> Sermon of Alms-deeds, Part II.

<sup>i</sup> Sermon of Repentance, Part I.



“ If we will have the wrath of God pacified, we  
 “ must in no wise dissemble, but turn unto him  
 “ again with a true and sound repentance, which  
 “ may be known and declared by *good fruits*, as by  
 “ most sure and infallible signs thereof. They that  
 “ do from the bottom of their hearts acknowledge  
 “ their sins, and are unfeignedly sorry for their  
 “ offences . . . . will from henceforwards with all  
 “ diligence give themselves to innocency, pureness  
 “ of life, and true godliness. We have the Nine-  
 “ vites for our example. . . . But above all other,  
 “ the history of Zaccheus is most notable: for  
 “ being come unto our Saviour Jesus Christ, he  
 “ did say, ‘ Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I  
 “ give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any  
 “ man, or taken aught away by extortion or fraud,  
 “ I do restore him fourfold <sup>k</sup>.’ ”

The same doctrine was taught by the Confession  
 of Augsburgh<sup>1</sup>, and by the Apology of the Confession  
 in the following terms, “ Although we think that  
 “ *Repentance ought to produce good fruits* on account  
 “ of the glory and the command of God, and *good*  
 “ *fruits* are commanded by God, such as *real fasting*,  
 “ *real prayer*, *real alms*, &c.; yet we no where find  
 “ in holy Scripture that eternal punishments are  
 “ not remitted except on account of the punish-

<sup>k</sup> Part II.

<sup>1</sup> Deinde sequi debent opera, quæ sunt fructus pœnitentiæ.  
 Conf. August. c. xii.



“ment of purgatory or canonical satisfactions”, “&c.” So that fasting, prayers, and alms, are here admitted to be fruits, signs, or points of real repentance.

In these various passages we may observe, that the penitential works of fasting, alms-giving, and prayer, are all regarded as *parts of true repentance*, as *fruits which testify its reality*, and as *conducive directly to the remission of sin*. This is the doctrine which I am about to maintain against you.

### I. From Scripture.

All the passages which you and other Romish theologians have cited in support of your doctrine of Satisfactions, go directly to prove, that such penitential works are means of obtaining remission of the *whole sin*, (*culpa* and *pœna*).

“Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and  
“with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourn-  
“ing: and turn unto the Lord your God, for he  
“is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of  
“great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”  
(Joel ii. 12.) This was obviously designed for the purpose of obtaining *remission of sin*.

“God saw their works that they turned from  
“their evil ways; and God repented of the evil

<sup>m</sup> Quanquam igitur sentimus, quod pœnitentia debeat bonos fructus parere propter gloriam et mandatum Dei, et boni fructus habent mandata Dei, vera jejunia, veræ orationes, veræ eleemosynæ, &c. Apol. Conf. August. vi. (De Confessione et Satisfactione.) See also the Confessio Helvetica, cap. xiv.

“ that he had said he would do unto them ; and  
 “ he did it not.” (Jonah iii. 10.) That is, he *for-*  
*gave their sin*, not merely its temporal penalties.

“ Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust  
 “ and ashes.” (Job xlii. 6.) Job did then peniten-  
 tial works to obtain pardon of his *sin*, (see ch. xl.  
 xli.); not of its temporal penalties alone.

“ If the mighty works which were done in you  
 “ had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would  
 “ have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”  
 (Matt. xi. 21.) In these words our Saviour recog-  
 nises external works of repentance, as a part of  
 true repentance, and therefore as conducive to the  
 remission of *sin*, not of its temporal penalties.

“ O generation of vipers, who hath warned you  
 “ to flee from the wrath to come. Bring forth  
 “ therefore fruits meet for repentance.” (Matt. iii.  
 7.) In this case, “ fruits of repentance” are men-  
 tioned as the means of escaping “ the wrath to  
 “ come,” that is, of obtaining remission of the *guilt*  
 and *eternal punishment* of sin.

“ I keep under my body and bring it into sub-  
 “ jection ; lest that by any means, when I have  
 “ preached to others, I myself should be a cast-  
 “ away.” (1 Cor. ix. 27.) This passage obviously  
 does not speak of Satisfaction for sins, but of  
 mortification of the senses and self-denial, with  
 a view to prevent the occurrence of sin. But  
 if it did relate to Satisfaction, it would only prove  
 that they are necessary to the remission of the

guilt of sin: "Lest I myself should be a cast-away."

"Wherefore O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off *thy sins* by righteousness, and *thine iniquities* by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity." (Daniel iv. 27.) "By mercy and truth *iniquity is purged.*" (Prov. xvi. 6.) "Alms do deliver *from death*, and suffereth not to come into *darkness.*" (Tobias iv. 11.) "Give alms of such things as ye have, and behold *all things are clean unto you.*" (Luke xi. 41.)

In these passages, penitential works are spoken of as means of obtaining the *remission of sins*, not merely the *temporal penalties* of remitted sin. Your doctrine of Satisfaction is therefore not Catholic; it is not the doctrine of the word of God.

II. I shall now prove from Catholic Tradition, that your view is altogether erroneous. It is the doctrine of all the Fathers, that penitential works, such as fasting, weeping, alms-giving, and mortifications, are conducive to the remission of the *whole sin*, i. e. both the guilt and the punishment of sin. And here I mean to avail myself of the proofs collected by your own writers to establish your doctrine of Satisfaction, all of which directly refute your error, and establish the truth for which I am contending. In citing the following passages from the "Faith of Catholics," by the popish

priests Berington and Kirk<sup>n</sup>, I am far from pledging myself to their accuracy; but they will be quite sufficient in arguing with you, since you acknowledge your own obligations to the work in question<sup>o</sup>, which in fact furnishes all your writers with their whole stock of citations from the Fathers.

TERTULLIAN, A.D. 200. Having spoken of the *public confession* of sin before the Church, he thus proceeds, "I admit it is hard to make this confession; but suffering is the consequence of *sin*. "This suffering ends, and spiritual health begins, "when penance has been performed. But it may "be that besides the shame of confession, the "severe discipline of penance (some acts of which "he enumerates) is likewise feared." . . . "Should "any one enquire why you are thus engaged? "say: *I have sinned against God*, and am in "danger of perishing everlastingly: wherefore, that "*I may obtain forgiveness*, I thus punish myself<sup>p</sup>." Can any words be more decisively opposed to your doctrine than these? You believe that penances do not *remit sin* or its *everlasting* punishment.

<sup>n</sup> Faith of Catholics, &c. London, 1830.

<sup>o</sup> "The useful compilation of Messrs. Kirk and Berington, from which I have in general drawn my quotations of the Fathers." Wiseman's Lectures, vol. i. p. ix.

<sup>p</sup> Tertullian, De Pœnitentia, c. x, xi.

You hold that they *only* remit the temporal penalties of *forgiven sin*.

ST. CYPRIAN, A. D. 250. " Let us turn with  
 " our whole mind to the Lord, and, expressing our  
 " repentance with true sorrow, implore his *mercy*.  
 " Before him let the soul bow down : to him let  
 " our sorrow make satisfaction : on him let all  
 " our hope rest. By fasting, by tears, and by  
 " moaning, *let us appease*, as he himself admo-  
 " nishes, his *indignation*<sup>1</sup>."

COUNCIL OF NICE, A. D. 325. " In all cases  
 " the disposition and character of repentance must  
 " be considered. For they who by fear, by tears,  
 " by patience, and by good works, *manifest a*  
 " *sincere conversion*, when they shall have passed  
 " over a certain time, and begun to communicate  
 " in prayer with the faithful, to these the bishop  
 " may shew more indulgence<sup>2</sup>;" (i. e. by shorten-  
 " ing the time of their penance, and admitting them  
 " at an early period to absolution.) Observe in this  
 " case, that penitential works are necessary to *mani-*  
 " *fest a sincere conversion*, and therefore that sin  
 " cannot be remitted without them.

ST. PACIANUS, A. D. 370. " Be not slow in  
 " having recourse to the means of *salvation*: lower  
 " the mind by grief: clothe the body in sackcloth;  
 " strew ashes on the head; fast; implore the

<sup>1</sup> Cyprian. De Lapsis, p. 191.

<sup>2</sup> Can. xii. Conc. Gen. t. ii. p. 35.

“ prayers of the faithful. As you spare not your-  
 “ selves, God will *spare* you. He is gentle, and  
 “ patient, and full of mercy, and *will reverse his*  
 “ *sentence*. I promise: I am surety for you; if  
 “ you return by true satisfaction to your Father,  
 “ going astray no more, adding nothing to your  
 “ former sins, uttering the humble and plaintive  
 “ words, Father, we have sinned before thee, we  
 “ are not worthy to be called thy sons, he will  
 “ *again receive you*, who says, *I will not the death of*  
 “ *the sinner*<sup>s</sup>.” Satisfaction then is a mean of  
 obtaining remission of sins, and of avoiding eternal  
 death.

ST. AMBROSE, A. D. 390. “ Let the Church  
 “ weep for thee, and by her tears wash away thy  
 “ *sin*: may Christ see thee weeping, that he may  
 “ say, Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall  
 “ be comforted . . . Therefore did he pardon Peter,  
 “ because he wept bitterly. And if thou weep in  
 “ like manner, Christ will look on thee, and *thy sin*  
 “ *will be cancelled*<sup>t</sup>.”

ST. AUGUSTINE, A. D. 400. “ To no one has he  
 “ (God) granted the liberty of sinning, although in  
 “ mercy *he may forgive past sins if due satisfaction*  
 “ *be not neglected*<sup>u</sup>.”

ST. LEO, A. D. 450. “ As for those Christians,

<sup>s</sup> Paræn. ad Pœnit. Bibl. Patr. iv. 317.

<sup>t</sup> De Pœnit. l. ii. c. x.

<sup>u</sup> Enchirid. c. lxx.



“ who are said to have polluted themselves by food  
 “ offered to idols, my answer is, that they *be puri-*  
 “ *fied* by penitential satisfactions, which should be  
 “ measured rather by the sorrow of the heart, than  
 “ by the length of the time\*.”

Such, Sir, are the passages which your writers have culled from Antiquity, in proof that penitential works or satisfactions only remit *the temporal punishment* of sin; and I now ask you to produce, if you can, *one single passage* from any Christian writer for a thousand years after Christ, in which your doctrine is maintained. All the “dicta” of the Fathers which you have hitherto adduced, are condemnatory of your doctrine. Those Fathers exclaimed against the impiety of imagining, that sin can be remitted without any fruits of repentance, when such a dogma was first advanced. Hear the language of St. Cyprian, when some sinners had been admitted to absolution without any previous works of satisfaction.

“ A new sort of *destruction* hath arisen, beloved  
 “ brethren; and as if the storm of persecution had  
 “ raged but a little, a deceitful *evil*, a gentle *ruin*,  
 “ under the name of *mercy*, has been accumulated  
 “ on us. Contrary to the firmness of the Gospel,  
 “ contrary to that of our Lord towards the Law  
 “ of God, some persons rashly extend communion  
 “ to heedless men; a vain and false peace, perilous  
 “ to those who give, and unavailing to those who

\* Ep. cxxix. al. lxxix. ad Nicet. Aquil.

“ receive. They require no patience in recovering,  
 “ no real medicine by satisfaction. Repentance is  
 “ driven from their bosoms, the memory of the  
 “ most grievous and extreme sin is removed. . .  
 “ Before sins are expiated ; before confession of the  
 “ crime is made ; before conscience is cleansed by  
 “ the sacrifice and the absolution of the priest ;  
 “ before the offence of an indignant and threatening  
 “ God is appeased, they suppose that there is *peace* ;  
 “ which indeed they vaunt with deceitful words. . . .  
 “ This is another persecution, another temptation,  
 “ by which the subtle Enemy secretly assails and  
 “ destroys the lapsed, that their lamentation may  
 “ cease, grief be silent, the memory of sin vanish,  
 “ the groaning of hearts be repressed, the weeping  
 “ of eyes be stopped, and the grievously offended  
 “ God be not deprecated by a long and full repent-  
 “ ance<sup>y</sup>.”

The whole Treatise from which the above passages are taken is sufficient to shew, that works of repentance were considered necessary for the *pardon of sin* ; that it was unlawful to admit penitents to absolution without the previous performance of such works ; and that there was not the remotest idea in those ages, that they remitted the temporal penalties due to *pardoned* sin.

But, Sir, it is not merely the whole body of ancient catholic tradition which is opposed to your

<sup>y</sup> Cyprianus, De Lapsis.

doctrine of Satisfaction; I have to produce evidence from a quarter which you little expect, even from the Council of Trent itself.

It is the doctrine of the Council of Trent, that Satisfaction is *necessary for the remission of sins*—necessary to a real repentance. Hear its words: “The acts of the penitent himself, that is, Contrition, Confession, and *Satisfaction*, are as it were the matter of this sacrament; which, *inasmuch as they are required by the Divine institution* to the completeness of the sacrament, and *the full and perfect remission of sins*, are for this reason called *parts of repentance*.” Thus, you see, Satisfaction is requisite to the *remission of sin itself*—not merely to the remission of the *temporal penalties* of sin already *remitted*. In another place the Council teaches the same doctrine; “It is agreeable to the Divine goodness that *our sins should not be forgiven without Satisfaction*, lest taking occasion therefrom, we should think lightly of them, &c.” In fine, we have the following canon, “If any one deny, that in order to the *full and perfect remission of sins*, three acts are requisite in the penitent, (constituting as it were the matter of the sacrament of Penitence,) that is to say, Contrition, Confession, and *Satisfaction*, which are called the *three parts of Repentance*. . . . Let him be Ana-

<sup>a</sup> Sessio xiv. cap. iii.

<sup>a</sup> Ib. c. viii.

“*thema<sup>b</sup>!*” Here, Sir, your doctrine is anathematized by the Council of Trent! you maintain that sin is *pardoned, remitted, forgiven*, by Confession and Absolution; and that Satisfaction, which comes afterwards, only remits its *temporal penalties*. So that you are in this dilemma. If sin is not perfectly forgiven by Confession and Absolution as you believe it to be, and if Satisfaction remits more than temporal penalties, then your whole doctrine of Satisfaction is based on a false foundation; but if sin is perfectly forgiven without Satisfaction, you must maintain that the Council of Trent is in error. Either alternative is quite sufficient for me.

In fact, Sir, why do you, notwithstanding the opinions generally current in your communion, always exact from penitents in Confession an undertaking to do some works of Satisfaction—to perform some penance or other? You would think it unlawful to give Absolution without having previously imposed some such penances, and you believe that the penitent must have the *intention* of executing

<sup>b</sup> Si quis negaverit, ad integram et perfectam peccatorum remissionem requiri tres actus in pœnitente, quasi materiam Sacramenti pœnitentiæ, videlicet, Contritionem, Confessionem, et Satisfactionem, quæ tres pœnitentiæ partes dicuntur: aut dixerit, duas tantùm esse pœnitentiæ partes, terrores scilicet incussos conscientiæ, agnito peccato, et fidem conceptam ex Evangelio vel absolutione, quâ credit quis sibi per Christum remissa peccata; anathema sit. Sess. xiv. can. 4.

that penance, in order to obtain remission of his sins by Absolution. What is this after all, but a tacit confession, that Satisfaction *is* in some way *essential* to the full effect of the sacrament of Penance—that it is *essential* to the remission of sin? You accept indeed a *quasi* satisfaction, an *intention* of doing penance, where the Scriptures and Catholic Tradition require a *real* satisfaction; but still, you *do* require a sort of *virtual* satisfaction in order to the *remission of sin*. So that your own practice condemns your doctrine of Satisfaction.

But your doctrine of Satisfaction is not only condemned by Scripture, by Tradition, by the Council of Trent, and by your own practice: it is actually rejected by some of your own theologians. Morinus, in his celebrated work on Penance, remarks, that the following “ axiom was introduced “ into the minds of all Christians by the Fathers, “ ‘ That Satisfaction imposed by the Church and “ strenuously performed, *not only satisfied and “ expunged temporal punishments, but eternal; that “ they drew down the mercy of God on sinners, “ and obtained pardon of their crimes*’.” Mori-

• Alterum disciplinæ penitentialis fundamentum, quod nobis hujus libri initio explicandum proposuimus, hoc est axioma Christianorum omnium animis à Patribus insinuaturn, Satisfactiones ab Ecclesia impositas diligenter et strenuè peractas non tantum pœnæ temporariæ sed etiam æternæ satisfactorias esse, et expunctrices, animam purgare et emaculare, Dei miseri-



nus observes, that it was the hope of obtaining remission of *sins*, that induced penitents in those ages to undergo such long and severe penances ; and that this doctrine formed the basis of all the exhortations of the Fathers to repentance. He cites Maldonatus, one of your most eminent Jesuits, as saying, “ I do not doubt that *all the ancient Authors* acknowledged that Satisfaction was for “ the *guilt (culpa)*. For they did not suppose that “ God remitted the guilt of sins, before the penitent “ had appeased Him by external penances : nor did “ the priests believe that they could give Absolu- “ tion to the penitent before, as interpreters of the “ Divine will, they had seen the sinner perform “ such a penance, that it was credible that God “ was already reconciled to him <sup>d</sup>.” Morinus afterwards refers to Estius and Sylvius, as making the same admissions ; and to Lensæus, an eminent theologian of Louvain, whose work was approved by that University. The latter, according to Mori-

cordiam in peccatores allicere, et scelerum veniam ab eo impetrare.’ Morinus, De discipl. Sacramenti Pœnitentiæ, lib. iii. c. xi. p. 159. Ed. Bruxellis 1685.

<sup>d</sup> Non dubito, inquit Joannes Maldonatus, quin omnes veteres Authores satisfactionem agnoverint pro culpa. Nam non putabant Deum culpam remittere peccatorum, priusquam externis pœnitentiis Deum placassent : Neque sacerdotes putabant dare posse pœniteni Absolutionem, priusquam, quasi interpretes Divinæ voluntatis, viderent eam pœnitentiam egisse peccatorem, ut credibile esset Deum jam illi esse placatum. Morinus, *ibid*.



nus, maintained, that Satisfactions were imposed, “to appease the anger of an indignant God, and “that a complete *abolition of sins* might, in that “manner, be obtained;” and that by Satisfactions, “a man is relieved, cleansed, excused, absolved; a “remedy applied for the recovery of *salvation*; “*eternal punishments* expunged; *the fire of Hell* “*extinguished*.” The same author proves his doctrine at great length from the Fathers. Morinus also quotes Albaspinæus, the learned bishop of Orleans, as maintaining that Satisfactions *remit sin*; a position which he establishes in many ways.

In fine, Morinus himself, having spoken of those theologians whose doctrines lead to the conclusion, that “all *satisfaction* relates only to *temporal punish-* “*ments*,” says, “Whether this opinion can agree “with the most undeniable discipline of the an- “cients, let others judge.”

Thus you see, that what you adduce as “the “*Catholic* doctrine of Satisfaction,” is so far from being so, that it has not even been approved by all your own theologians. I admit indeed, that it is *now universally received* amongst you, however incon-

\* Verùm eo propriè relatas fuisse (satisfactiones) ut Deo satisfaceret, ejusque indignantis ira placaretur, plenaque ista ratione percipi posset abolitio peccatorum . . . . Per hoc idcirco studium satisfactionis hominem relevari, mundari, excusari, absolvi, ad salutem recuperandam remedium adhiberi, æterna supplicia expungi, gehennæ ignem extinguere,” &c. Morinus, *ibid*.

sistent it be with Catholic antiquity, and with the Council of Trent. All your modern approved writers agree, that Satisfaction obtains only the remission of *temporal punishments*; the *sin itself* having been previously remitted. This is the doctrine which you yourself maintain, as I have shewn at the beginning of this Letter.

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Having now completed the refutation of your doctrine of Satisfaction, and having established the Catholic doctrine in opposition to it, I shall submit to your consideration certain conclusions which follow from a review of the whole discussion.

I. In my former Letter it was proved, that your doctrine of Satisfaction or Penances necessarily leads to the conclusion, that after sin has been pardoned, God's anger and wrath still remain to be appeased, and consequently that the remission of sin is merely *nominal*.

II. It was also proved, that, according to your doctrine, God is actuated by *contradictory* dispositions towards the justified; that he is at once satisfied and dissatisfied, pleased and displeased; that he loves and hates the same persons at the same moment.

III. It was further proved, that, according to your doctrine, a Christian is bound to pass his whole life in enduring self-inflicted torments and laborious works, under an uncertain hope of appeasing the wrath of God.

IV. It was also shewn, that you are not satisfied with imposing this grievous burden on Christians, but that you teach them to consider themselves alienated from God, exposed to his wrath, vengeance, and hatred, during their whole lives, and even at the hour of death.

V. It has been shewn, that your doctrine renders it impossible for those who receive it, ever perfectly to love God.

VI. In the present Letter, I have proved that your doctrine of Satisfaction is without any proof from Scripture or Tradition. Consequently it cannot be Catholic.

VII. It has been also proved, that Scripture, Tradition, the Council of Trent, and some of your own most eminent Divines, concur in establishing the truth taught by the Church of England, that penitential works are a part of true Repentance, and as such, remit sin both as to its guilt and its punishment (*culpa* and *pœna*). Consequently your doctrine of Satisfaction, which asserts that penitential works are only useful for the remission of *temporal penalties*, is *directly erroneous*, and approximates to heresy.

VIII. Scripture and Catholic Tradition teach, that remission of sins is not obtained without penitential works. Therefore you are *in error* in pronouncing the Absolution of sins, without any previous fruits of repentance; and your Absolutions are, generally speaking, *invalid*.

IX. Scripture and Tradition teach, that penitential works are necessary to obtain pardon of sin ; but all your modern divines maintain, that they are not an *essential* part of the Sacrament of Penitence<sup>f</sup>, and on this principle give Absolution before Satisfaction. Therefore your received doctrine is opposed to the word of God.

X. These errors are *universally received amongst you*. They are taught by all your theologians in modern times, and are believed by all your people. From which we learn, that *some* errors at least are received by all members of the Roman Obedience ; and if some errors are universally received amongst you, there may be many more. You may be in error on *all the points* in which you differ from the Catholic and Apostolic Churches established amongst us.

And is it then for you and your co-religionists to assume the office of dictating to us what we are to believe ? Can those who are in such gross errors

<sup>f</sup> Satisfactio, seu pœnitentia à Confessario data, est necessaria necessitate non sacramenti sed præcepti . . . . est pars sacramenti non *essentialis*, sed *integralis* tantum. Ligorio, Theol. Mor. t. vi. p. 122. Communis theologorum sententia post Concilium Tridentinum assignat tres actus pœnitentis, nempe contritionem, confessionem, et satisfactionem pro materiâ proximâ Sacramenti Pœnitentiæ ; duos quidem priores pro materiâ *essentiali* ; tertium vèrò, nempe satisfactionem, pro materiâ integrante. Tournely, De Pœnit. t. i. p. 108. Sine illâ (satisfactione) valet absolutio data pœnitenti contrito et confesso, ut ostendemus suo loco inferius. Ib. p. 118.

themselves be fit monitors to others? Can those who quote passages from the Scriptures and the Fathers in favour of doctrines which they utterly subvert, be qualified either by learning or by intelligence to guide our opinions? Where is that boasted infallibility of received doctrines amongst you; when it has been shewn, that Scripture, Tradition, and the Council of Trent itself condemn your belief? Supposing that you could prove our Church in error on some points, (which however I utterly deny that you can do,) would there be any inducement to us to forsake the communion of our Church for the purpose of uniting ourselves to a community which is itself in error? But when the error is on *your* side; and when, by your own admission, *Catholic principles* may be maintained by those who are members of the Church of England; when, in short, our Churches are essentially Catholic, and your own separation from our Catholic and Apostolic Churches is consequently without excuse; how extreme would be the insanity, how desperate the wickedness, of that man, who should plunge his soul into eternal perdition, by forsaking the Communion of the Catholic Church in England, to unite himself to your corrupt and schismatical community!

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*Oxford, May 11, 1841.*

WILLIAM PALMER.





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A  
FIFTH LETTER

TO

N. WISEMAN, D.D.

CONTAINING

A REPLY

TO HIS

REMARKS ON LETTER I.

WITH ADDITIONAL PROOFS OF THE

IDOLATRY AND SUPERSTITION OF ROMANISM

---

BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.

OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

---

OXFORD,

JOHN HENRY PARKER ;

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1841.

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BAXTER, PRINTER, OXFORD.

A

## FIFTH LETTER,

&c.

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### §. 1. *Introductory Remarks.*

SIR,

WHEN you thought it necessary to call publicly on a clergyman of the English Church for proofs of charges which he had made years before against the doctrines and practice of Romanists, and which had been just repeated without any peculiar reference to yourself, or any other circumstance which particularly obliged you at this time to make such a demand ; and when you availed yourself of this opportunity to present the doctrines of your Communion to the notice of the English public ; it does not seem to me that you have any reason to complain, if another clergyman uses the same liberty which you have yourself taken, and proceeds with a discussion to which you have led the way.

The question which formed the principal subject of my first Letter was one, which most deeply

and even vitally affects the religious character of Romanism. It was no less than this: Whether in the Church of Rome, created beings receive honours which are only due to God; whether this idolatrous worship is sanctioned and encouraged by authority amongst you, and is allowed generally by the members of the Roman communion without any protests or expressions of dissent.

In maintaining that such an idolatrous worship exists and is authorized amongst you; it was, at the same time, most readily admitted, that every Romanist is not necessarily an idolater<sup>a</sup>; because idolatry is *only allowed* and *sanctioned* in the Roman Church: it is not *enjoined* or *imposed* on all its members. This is a distinction which you are still unwilling to recognise, and by losing sight of it, you easily involve my statements in apparent contradiction<sup>b</sup>. Could time be spared for the discussion, it might easily be shewn, that there is no contradiction in those statements. An intelligent reader will easily disentangle them for

<sup>a</sup> Letter I. p. 6, 43.

<sup>b</sup> Wiseman, Remarks, p. 6, 10—13. I shall only observe, that you are mistaken in supposing that I admit “an immense aggregate of *idolatrous* Churches into a portion? with Christ’s true Church.” (p. 13.) To speak of the Roman as an *idolatrous Church*, would seem to imply that all its members must be idolaters, which I am not prepared to affirm. *Romanism*, however, i. e. the *more popular* system of religion in the Roman Church, is superstitious and idolatrous.



himself, by remembering that I have maintained, that the Roman Church is indeed deeply *culpable* and very *corrupt* in *permitting* Idolatry to exist within her pale ; and yet that, as she does not *enjoin it*, (either by the decrees of Councils or otherwise,) she is not actually *apostate or cut off from Christ*. In a word, she is still capable of REFORMATION.

In connexion with this subject I must say, that I cannot see the justice of your “ demand,” (p. 8.) that the expressions of those who are in authority amongst you “ be interpreted *in accordance* with “ your formularies.” It is not impossible, that men may hold what is inconsistent with the formularies of their Church ; and there is still less difficulty in supposing that their doctrines may *go beyond the wording of those formularies*, without being *opposed* to them. This is the case with Romanists. Their formularies do not (I believe) teach or enjoin Idolatry ; and yet Idolatry is taught and practised. That is, Romanism is more corrupt than its own formularies.

The object of your reference (p. 14, 15.) to the former prevalence of “ the Bible alone” system in this country, and to the support given to the Bible Society by some of our Prelates, is to prove, that the “ Bible alone” doctrine, as *opposed* to any Church authority, is as much sanctioned amongst us, as idolatrous worship is amongst Romanists. But you are surely aware, that this doctrine is

now, and has long been, *openly* condemned and resisted by the great body of the Clergy; and we have no reason to suppose that the Prelates, (always, I believe, *a minority* of the Episcopal body,) who have supported the Bible Society, intended to approve any unsound principles, or to give their countenance to any thing but the circulation of the Bible without note or comment, which is, in itself, a perfectly unexceptionable and most laudable object.

Your argument, however, in this case, concedes the validity of that by which I shewed, that Romanists are *responsible* for the idolatrous language and prayers employed by the Authorities, without any opposition or protest from the members of their Communion. And the whole pamphlet before me is a further admission of its correctness. You do not attempt to deny that the character of Romanism depends on the lawfulness of the expressions which were adduced in my first Letter.

I must pass over several minor points in the first and second sections of your “Remarks,” the discussion of which would withdraw attention from the important features of this discussion. They may perhaps be noticed at the conclusion of this Letter.

§. 2. *Romanism convicted of Idolatry by Dr. Wiseman's concessions.*

Let us now turn to the really serious part of the

question, and examine how far you have been able to meet the charge which was made against your system—that the blessed Virgin and the Saints receive amongst Romanists “honours which are “due only to the Trinity, and which interfere “with the sole prerogatives of the Deity.”

Your Reply, Sir, has only confirmed the worst apprehensions that could have been formed as to the extent of the evils under which Religion is suffering amongst you. It has shewn that the corruptions which were pointed out are deeply rooted, and widely spread in your communion. Every expression and every practice to which I referred, however idolatrous and impious, has been studiously maintained and defended. Far from disclaiming responsibility for such language, or from protesting against it, you confidently maintain its correctness in all points, and are prepared to go to *still greater lengths* than any of the writers whom I quoted ; for you cite in their justification, language which is still more offensive than that which was produced. This proceeding most fully establishes the truth of what was said in my first Letter ; that “you (Romanists) content yourselves “with *general disclaimers* of superstition and idolatry, “but you will never venture to lay your finger on “any specific case<sup>c</sup>.” No : so far is this from being the case, that the moment an attempt is made to point out the real and undeniable corruptions

<sup>c</sup> Letter I. p. 19.

existing in your communion, they are eagerly defended and justified in their fullest extent.

Your Reply has established another point, which is of great importance in our controversies with Romanists. It has shewn that we are not called on to enter into *any discussion* with you on the propriety of asking the Saints and Angels to “pray for us.” Such discussions may be put aside, *until* you disclaim and reject those far more objectionable and dangerous Invocations which invest the Saints with the attributes of Deity; which reduce God to the same level with His creatures, or elevate creatures to an equality with God. The mere invocation of Saints to “*pray* for us” stands on different grounds, because it distinctly recognises the superiority of God.

You have conceded then what I contended for in my first Letter, that Romanists *are responsible* for the expressions sanctioned by Authority, which were there produced.

But you concede still more than this. I contended, that the blessed Virgin and the Saints receive in those authorized expressions, honours which are only due to the Deity; that the attributes of the Deity are plainly and repeatedly ascribed to created beings. **THIS YOU HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO DENY.** You have not answered the arguments which were adduced to prove, that the very powers and attributes ascribed in those passages to the Saints, belong, according to Revela-

tion, to God only. You have only adduced a series of *precedents* for such prayers from various writers. I have a right therefore to assume, that you cannot deny the validity of my proofs; and thus my conclusion remains established; that the Virgin Mary and the Saints receive amongst you honours which are due to God; and that your prayers invest them with the attributes of Deity.

Now, Sir, according to yourself, "*Idolatry* is "the giving to man or to any thing created, that "*homage*, that *adoration*, and that *worship* which "God hath reserved unto Himself<sup>d</sup>," and you acknowledge, that "throughout God's word, the "crime of idolatry is spoken of as the most heinous, "the most odious, and the most detestable in his "eyes<sup>e</sup>." Have I not a right then to claim you as a witness against the prayers which you have defended? Have I not a right to produce your own confessions as amongst the strongest possible condemnations of what is so generally practised amongst Romanists, and practised without a word of warning, of censure, or of opposition?

Romanists allege, that all these acts of homage and adoration to the Virgin and the Saints cannot be in reality idolatrous;—cannot trench on the worship due to the Creator; because they *believe* that God is infinitely superior to the Saints; and

<sup>d</sup> Lectures on the principal doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church, vol. ii. p. 93.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.



hence they conclude, that He will regard all worship of the Saints, however apparently idolatrous, as in reality consistent with, and subordinate to, that which is due to Himself.

But how can you be *certain* of this? How can you be *assured* that the Divine Justice of a “jealous God<sup>f</sup>,” will so easily excuse actions which to all appearance despoil Him of his glory in the face of the world? Can it be consistent with the will of God, that his professed disciples should commit even *external idolatry*? Is it fitting that they should seem to the world idolaters—and that the Heathen should be able to adduce their example to justify themselves in worshipping more than one God? Is it Christian to make use of forms which must, almost irresistibly, tempt the unlearned to commit idolatry in the worst sense? Surely, Sir, if such addresses are, in their plain and obvious sense, idolatrous; and if they inevitably lead to the grossest forms of idolatry, there can be no reason to suppose that God will pardon those who employ and sanction them, or those whose especial duty it is to watch against idolatry, and who yet utter no word of admonition or reproof to the people entrusted to their care.

Is it right that Christians should offer honours to the Saints which are even *apparently and externally idolatrous*? There cannot be any doubt of its impropriety. Consider for a moment the object of

<sup>f</sup> Exodus xx. 5.



all external worship addressed to God. We worship God in order to glorify Him before men and angels,—in order to testify that He is, as we *believe*, All-powerful, All-wise, and All-merciful. It is, to shew forth to his glory, the inward convictions of our hearts. If then we divide that worship with others, we do not accomplish the objects of our worship. We do not so much raise others to an equality with God, as bring down God to a level with his creatures. If the *external worship* due to God be imparted also to creatures, God is not honoured: He is even insulted and offended.

Consider the anger of God against Moses, when his language at the water of Meribah implied that he could bring water out of the rock by his own power. God said to Moses and Aaron, “because “ ye believed me not, to *sanctify me in the eyes of the “ children of Israel*, therefore ye shall not bring this “ congregation into the land which I have given “ them<sup>g</sup>.” Consider the rebuke and the punishment administered to Sennacherib for his impious boasting, “ I have digged and drunk strange waters, &c.” “ Hast thou not heard long ago,” said the Lord, “ how I have done it, and of ancient “ times that I have formed it<sup>h</sup>?” Think also of the awful instance of God’s displeasure, when Herod did not refuse the divine honours which the people of Tyre and Sidon paid him. “ The angel of the

<sup>g</sup> Numbers xx. 12.

<sup>h</sup> 2 Kings xix. 24, 25, &c.

“ Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory ; and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost<sup>i</sup>. ” These instances, to which many others might be added, go to establish the conclusion, that God will visit with his severest displeasure those, who, in any way, attribute to creatures those powers, or offer to them that homage, which is due to the Creator.

It is not merely our belief or our intention which God requires to be sound and pure, but our external profession of faith also, “ for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness ; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation<sup>k</sup>. ” If therefore the external profession of our faith in *prayer* and *worship* be unsound ; if it ascribe divine power to creatures ; the mere inward persuasion of our hearts will not suffice for our salvation. If we are *externally* idolaters, we shall not be saved from punishment, by believing that there is but one God.

If these principles be not adopted, you could not offer any opposition to the introduction of professions of faith, which, I believe, would be scarcely acceptable even to Romanists. For if it be allowable in prayer, which is a profession of faith, to offer the Virgin and the Saints the same homage, and ascribe to them the same attributes, as we do to God, there cannot be any objection to introduce

<sup>i</sup> Acts xi. 23.

<sup>k</sup> Rom. x. 10.

them into a creed, which is only a profession of faith in a different form. Suppose then, that Gregory XVI. were to substitute a new profession instead of that of Pius IV. (which is a *possible* case); and that after the Nicene Creed the following passage were inserted :

“ And I believe in the Virgin Mary, the ‘ only  
“ ‘ refuge’ of sinners, by whom ‘ the world is freed,’  
“ ‘ whose name is of ‘ salvation to the baptized.’ I  
“ ‘ acknowledge that from her ‘ celestial inspiration’  
“ ‘ good counsels proceed. I believe that she can  
“ ‘ do whatever she wills ; and I adore and worship  
“ ‘ her, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
“ ‘ Ghost, as my saviour, my deliverer, and my  
“ ‘ sovereign. I believe also in the Saints and  
“ ‘ Angels, in whom my whole confidence is placed.  
“ ‘ I offer to them my heart and soul, and I worship  
“ ‘ and glorify them, with the Father, the Son, the  
“ ‘ Holy Ghost, and the Virgin Mary.’ ”

Now, Sir, there is nothing in this profession of faith which would be inconsistent with the principles of your Letter. It might be defended by exactly the same arguments which Romanists employ to excuse the prayers which I quoted in my first Letter. It would be easy to say, that, after all, the *belief* of the Roman Church was quite sound ; that you rejected with *horror* the notion of idolatry ; and that you did not *imagine*, that the Virgin or the Saints could do any thing for you except by their prayers. On your principles no

opposition could be made to such a profession of faith. You could only object to it on the very principles on which we object to your actual language to the Virgin and Saints. You could only say, that such a profession would be, *in its obvious meaning*, idolatrous; that it was calculated to cause the grossest idolatry; and that the external worship and the professions of Christians ought always to be in accordance with their faith.

This is what we contend for. We contend that it can never be lawful for Christians to use an idolatrous external worship, and that there is no reason to believe that God will excuse such worship, because *faith* is alleged to be sound.

Let us suppose a petitioner, on entering the presence of his *earthly* Sovereign, to fall down before some *fellow-subject*; to profess his *allegiance* to that subject; to offer him all the honours due to the sovereign; and to solicit from him favours which no subject can bestow. What would be the feelings of that earthly sovereign, thus dishonoured in his own presence? Or even suppose the petitioner to address his homage *equally* at the *same moment* to the sovereign and one of his subjects. Suppose him to couple their names in his petition, and to express equal hope and confidence in the power of each; and to solicit favours from both at once in the same form of words. Would not this be an act of disrespect to the sovereign? Would it be regarded as any thing less than in-

sanity in the petitioner? Would it be sufficient to say, "that there was no *intention* to place the sovereign and his subject on the same level, or "to offer them an equal degree of honour; but "that it was only meant to ask for the prayers and "interest of the subject?" The reply would be, "Why then did not your conduct accord with "your intentions? Why did you not practically "make the distinctions which you acknowledge "theoretically ought to be made?" Transfer this example to the parallel case of your adoration of the Virgin and Saints, and it may suggest a salutary warning.

§. 3. *Value of Dr. Wiseman's Defence. His quotations from spurious and apocryphal writings.*

I now come to your Defence of the expressions on which my first Letter commented. It consists in an appeal to Christian Antiquity, with a view to shew that language of the same kind had been employed by the early Fathers. Now, Sir, much as the testimony of Catholic Antiquity is to be valued, you must permit me to say, that we are not bound to approve of every expression which particular writers may have employed in rhetorical compositions. Romanists have no scruple themselves in exercising a reasonable criticism in such cases<sup>1</sup>; and if therefore you had been able to

<sup>1</sup> See Melchior Canus, *De locis Theologicis*, l. vii. c. iii;



produce exaggerated language from some of the Fathers which approximated to that used by Romanists in their prayers to the Saints, it would not follow that this indiscretion on the part of some pious and holy men, could in any degree justify you for systematically, soberly, and of set purpose, employing language in itself idolatrous. But, Sir, I *most positively deny*, that Christian Antiquity furnishes any instances of prayers or declarations like those which were adduced in my first Letter. I say this, after having perused and examined the *apparently* imposing mass of authorities which you have produced. I say “*apparently* ;” because I was not prepared to find, that a large proportion of the passages which you have quoted as from the Fathers, *including all those on which you lay the most stress*, are derived from *apocryphal* and *spurious* writings ; from works written *centuries* after the time of the Fathers to whom you attribute them ; from the writings of *heretics* falsely attributed to the Fathers ! Page

Tournely, De Deo, t. i. p. 181 ; Delahogue, De Ecclesia, p. 436. St. Augustine says, “ Neque quorumlibet disputationes quamvis Catholicorum et laudatorum hominum, velut Scripturas Canonicas habere debemus, ut nobis non liceat salvâ honorificentîâ quæ illis debetur hominibus, aliquid in eorum scriptis improbare et respuere, si fortè invenerimus quod aliter senserint quàm veritas habet, divino adjutorio vel ab aliis intellecta, vel à nobis. Talis ego sum in scriptis aliorum, tales volo esse intellectores meorum.” August. Epist. 148. al. 111. ad Fortunatianum Siccensem Episcopum, c. 4. t. ii. p. 502.



after page of quotations, garnished with many an ingenious remark, and many a grave admonition, with your applause of the *venerable* authors, and your contrasts between their sentiments and mine, are derived from works, the genuineness of which is disputed or denied by the ablest critics, even of your own communion ! It is really impossible to refrain from a smile, when, after indulging in *masses* of quotations of this kind, you deal so *leniently* with a vanquished opponent, as to say, “ I cannot persuade myself that he would have selected such phrases . . had he been aware, or, at least, had he remembered, that they were so nearly—indeed quite—identical with those that are found in their (the Fathers’) writings<sup>m</sup>. ” I must confess that I was *not* aware of this fact, and notwithstanding your labours, I still remain in my ignorance. I have not been occupied in the same “ pleasing task ” to which you allude at the close of your Letter. The “ *pure* sources of ecclesiastical learning ” from which you have been “ refreshing your mind<sup>n</sup>, ” do not seem to me exactly to merit *that* title.

But I proceed to substantiate the truth of the above statement, by noticing the various passages which you have produced from spurious or doubtful compositions.

You cite (p. 20.) a prayer of St. Ephrem Syrus,

<sup>m</sup> Remarks, p. 66.

<sup>n</sup> Ib. p. 86.

contained in the third volume of his works edited by Assemani at Rome in 1746. This prayer, together with a great body of similar prayers, from which you quote *largely*, appeared for the first time in this edition of Ephrem Syrus<sup>o</sup>, having been unknown to all former editors of his works. Now we find from Assemani's preface, that all these prayers are copied from a manuscript in the Vatican Library (of *what age* it does not appear), which consists of a collection of prayers made by some monk named Thecaras; and in this collection, the prayers above mentioned are attributed to Ephrem<sup>p</sup>. So that the evidence for their genuineness depends on the veracity of this monk, of whom we know nothing, and who may perhaps have been a *fictitious* personage, or may have forged these prayers in the sixteenth or seventeenth century, for any thing that we know to the contrary. This is the evidence for their genuineness. On the other hand, we find that one or two *similar* prayers

<sup>o</sup> Ephrem Syri Opera, Græc. Lat. t. iii. p. 524—552.

<sup>p</sup> “Precationes Ephræmo tributæ, aliæ ad Deum sunt, aliæ  
“ad B. Virginem Deiparam, aliæ ad Sanctos . . separatim habentur . . præsertim in collectione precum, quas Thecaras  
“quidem monachus congregavit. De hoc Thecara in cod. MS.  
“Græco Coisliniano . . sic legitur . . ‘Sanctissimi Monachi  
“Thecaræ orationes compunctoriæ, collectæ ex divina Scriptura,  
“ut plurimum autem ex Sancto Ephræm.’ . . . Suppresso Thecaræ nomine, extant in cod. Vat. 1190. à fol. 1117. suntque a  
“nobis editæ hoc t. iii. p. 492.” Ephrem Syri Opera, t. iii. p. liii.

in the former editions of St. Ephrem, containing equally exaggerated expressions in honour of the blessed Virgin, are rejected by Tillemont<sup>q</sup>, Ceillier<sup>r</sup>, Oudinus<sup>s</sup>, and Cave<sup>t</sup>, as altogether unworthy of this holy man, and inconsistent with the spirit of the age in which he lived.

You cite (p. 22.) a passage from the first homily “In Dormitione B. Mariæ,” attributed to John Damascenus. Ceillier has observed, that this homily contains statements which are not consistent with the genuine sentiments of its reputed author<sup>x</sup>. And Oudinus remarks, that the Festival on which these homilies were delivered, was not instituted till a century after the death of Damascenus; and that the homilies themselves are attributed by some manuscripts to Andrew, Bishop of Cæsarea in the *ninth* century, by others to Germanus Bishop of Constantinople in the *thirteenth* century<sup>y</sup>. The next three quotations (p. 22, 23.) are from a homily “In Annunciatione,” ascribed also to Damascenus. It appears from Ceillier, that Leo Allatius believes this homily to have been

<sup>q</sup> Tillemont, *Histoire Ecclesiastique*, t. viii. p. 757.

<sup>r</sup> Ceillier, *Hist. Gen. des Auteurs Ecclesiastiques*, t. viii. p. 65, 66. ed. Paris, 1740.

<sup>s</sup> Casimiri Oudini *Comment. de Script. Eccl.* t. i. p. 506.

<sup>t</sup> Cave, *Hist. Literaria*, t. ii. p. 238.

<sup>u</sup> Opera, Ed. Lequien, t. ii. p. 859.

<sup>x</sup> Ceillier, t. xviii. p. 15.

<sup>y</sup> Oudinus, *ubi supra*, p. 1782.

composed by Theodore Studites the *younger*<sup>z</sup>. When this writer lived, I cannot at this moment discover, but the *elder* Theodore flourished in the *ninth* century, nearly a hundred years after the time of Damascenus. Cellier observes, that there are passages in the homilies on the Annunciation, “ which do not correspond with the modesty and “ gravity of this Father<sup>a</sup>. ”

At p. 23, you extract three more passages from the same collection of prayers attributed to Ephrem Syrus by the monk Thecaras, of which I have spoken before.

In pages 26, and 27, we have various extracts from the Acts of St. Mary of Egypt, which are introduced with a statement, that “ the Bollandists “ have *proved* that her conversion took place about “ the year 383, and that the *Acts* themselves cannot have been composed later than 500.” On referring to the preface of the Bollandists, we find first, that the *Greeks* suppose that Sophonius, Patriarch of Jerusalem in the *eighth* century, was the Author of these Acts<sup>b</sup>; and that the Bollandists themselves admit, that there is nothing in their own argument, which obliges us to place the history of Mary in the fourth or even the *fifth* century<sup>c</sup>. It is true they assert that the life of Mary was

<sup>z</sup> Ceillier, t. xviii. p. 149.

<sup>a</sup> Ib. p. 150.

<sup>b</sup> Acta Sanctorum, tom. i. April, p. 69.

<sup>c</sup> Ib. p. 68.

known in the West in the *sixth* century<sup>d</sup>. The only proof which is brought for this, is an extract from some manuscript, (of what age or authority is uncertain,) in which Mary of Egypt is indeed mentioned, but without any allusion to the *Acts*, as far as I can see. So that there is no evidence for the antiquity of the *Acts*, or of the passages quoted from them.

You produce (p. 28, 29, 30.) very long extracts from the Poem entitled “Christus Patiens” attributed to St. Gregory Nazianzen. Natalis Alexander, one of your most eminent writers, denies its genuineness, and states that the most learned critics generally attribute it to Apollinaris of Laodicea—a heretic! Ceillier observes, that it is rejected as a spurious composition by Tillemont, Dupin, Baillet, Baronius, Rivetus, Vossius, Bellarmine, and Labbe<sup>f</sup>. He is of opinion that it may have been composed by another Gregory, who lived in the latter part of the sixth century. The Benedictine editors suspect it to be later than the ninth century.

We are next favoured (p. 30, 31.) with long extracts from a Sermon attributed to St. Methodius, bishop of Pataræ. This Sermon is rejected as spurious by Ceillier, who states, that the Feast of the Purification, on which it was delivered, was not

<sup>d</sup> Ib. p. 71.

<sup>e</sup> Natalis Alexander, Hist. Eccl. t. iv. p. 147.

<sup>f</sup> Ceillier, Hist. Gen. &c. t. vii. p. 196. See also, Oudin<sup>us</sup> Comment. de Script. Eccl. t. i. p. 644, &c.; Cave, Hist. Literaria, t. i. p. 248.



instituted till A.D. 527, and that the style is unlike that of Methodius<sup>f</sup>. It is also rejected by the learned Jesuit Gretser<sup>g</sup>, by Canisius<sup>h</sup>, Oudinus<sup>i</sup>, and Cave. Gretser, Oudinus, and Cave, suppose it to have been written by Methodius, patriarch of Constantinople, in the *ninth* century. At p. 35, 36. you indulge again in quotations from the same spurious homily of Methodius.

The Apocryphal prayers of Ephrem Syrus by Thecaras, already alluded to, are cited again, p. 41, 42.

You have hinted that I could hardly have been acquainted with the language of the Fathers, when I ventured to reprove that of Romanists towards the Virgin and the Saints. I must be allowed in return to express my surprise, that one who is fully qualified to examine into the genuineness of writings ascribed to the Fathers, and who is evidently acquainted with their real works, should have rested the *whole strength* of his defence on productions, which are, at the very first sight, suspicious; and which the slightest enquiry would have rejected as valueless. I must say that such a mode of defence is worthy of the cause in which it is employed.

<sup>f</sup> Ceillier, tom. iv. p. 35, 36.

<sup>g</sup> Fabricii Bibliotheca Græca, t. vii. p. 268. ed. Harles, 1801.

<sup>h</sup> See Cave, Hist. Lit. t. i. p. 152.

<sup>i</sup> Oudinus, De Script. Eccl. t. i. p. 303, 304, 305. proves its spuriousness by several very convincing arguments.



§. 4. *Dr. Wiseman's Defence of the Worship of the Virgin.*

Having thus disposed of the quotations from spurious, doubtful, and apocryphal writings, which cannot be brought in proof of any doctrine, let us next proceed to enquire how far the remainder of your citations justify the language to which objections were offered in my first Letter. I fear that this discussion of particular passages will be rather too heavy a tax on the attention of the Reader; but as I am unwilling to leave any part of your defence unexamined, I must only request him to pass on to section 5, when he has been satisfied of the inadequacy of your proofs.

I. The first passage you defend is the following.

“ That she [the blessed Virgin] may propitiously  
 “ assist us while we write, and by her *celestial*  
 “ *inspiration* may guide us to such counsels as may  
 “ be most salutary to the Christian Church.”  
 Encyclical Letter.

I remarked that this passage distinctly invests the Virgin with the attributes of Deity, and you do not deny that it does. In proof of its lawfulness, however, a *spurious* prayer of St. Ephrem is cited, (p. 20.) and also a passage from his genuine writings. The latter is wholly unavailing for your purpose. St. Ephrem was speaking of the Incarnation of our Lord, on which he remarks, that God “ like a *husbandman*, grafted the Godhead [of

“ his Son] into the [human] nature of the Virgin ;” after which he continues, in the words quoted by you, “ Mary *was* therefore to the Father a plant, “ to the Son a mother, and to men a fountain of “ the eternal Spirit and the dawn of incorruption<sup>k</sup>.” She *was* so, by becoming the mother of our Lord ; for had not our Lord been born, we should have remained in condemnation ; but this is widely different from saying, that she *is* “ a fountain of “ the eternal Spirit,” or that she herself *inspires* good counsels.

Your next extract (p. 21.) is from Ildephonsus, bishop of Toledo, in the latter part of the *seventh* century. This is certainly not an *early* testimony ; nor does it proceed from an author of much note. It is however entirely free from the guilt of ascribing the Divine attributes to a creature. Ildephonsus says, “ I entreat thee, that I may have *the “ Spirit of thy Lord, the Spirit of thy Son*<sup>l</sup>.” This is perfectly unlike the language of the Encyclical Letter. In the one case the Spirit of God is prayed for: in the other the Virgin is invested with the attributes of that Spirit.

These, Sir, are all the passages which you have been able to produce in justification of the Encyclical Letter, and I think it may be fairly said, that they are wholly insufficient. You *allude* indeed

<sup>k</sup> Ephræmi Syri Opera, Græc. Lat. t. iii. p. 527. ed. Assemani.

<sup>l</sup> Ildephonsus Tolet. de perp. Virgin. S. Mariæ, Opera P. P. Toletanorum, Madrid, 1782. p. 110.

(p. 21.) to prayers quoted in another part of your pamphlet; but I have in vain looked for any expressions like those which you here defend. My conclusion then remains undisturbed; that the blessed Virgin receives amongst you honours which are only due to the Trinity, and that she is practically invested with the attributes of God.

II. The next passages you undertake to defend are as follows.

“ That She, whom we have acknowledged as our patroness and *deliverer* amongst the greatest calamities, may &c.”—Encyclical.

“ We fly to thy *protection*, holy Mother of God, *despise not our prayers . . . .* but deliver us, *at all times, from all evils.*”—Prayer before the Litany of Loreto.

“ Condescend to permit me to praise thee, sacred Virgin: *Grant me strength against thine enemies.*”—Prayer approved by Pius VI.

I produced some texts to shew, that the same confidence is here expressed in the Virgin as Scripture teaches us to repose in God. You reply first, by quoting from homilies of Damascenus, and prayers of St. Ephrem, which are rejected by the best critics as doubtful or spurious<sup>m</sup>. You next remark, that “ nothing is more common than to find the Fathers thus attributing to the blessed Virgin directly, what must primarily come from God. Thus St. Amphilochius . . . . tells us, that

<sup>m</sup> See above, §. 3.

“ ‘ the world is freed by a Virgin, which before by  
 “ a virgin (Eve) had fallen under sin<sup>n</sup>.’ ” The  
 language of this Father might be more accurately  
 translated: “ The world *was* freed *through* a Virgin ”  
 (ἡλευθέρωται κόσμος διὰ παρθένου); that is, by  
 our Saviour being born of the Virgin Mary, she was  
 an *instrumental* cause of our salvation. How dif-  
 ferent is this from saying, that the Virgin is the  
 deliverer of mankind, or from acknowledging her  
 power to “ deliver us at all times from all evils.”  
 The language of Amphilochius is that of every  
 Catholic: it is entirely free from the semblance of  
 idolatry.

It would certainly be easy to “ fill pages with  
 quotations ” of a similar character from the older  
 writers, from St. Irenæus downwards; (p. 24.) but  
 they would not be of any use to you. Sedulius<sup>o</sup>,  
 whom you quote, as a specimen of the rest, dis-  
 tinctly teaches what Amphilochius did—that the  
 Virgin *was* an instrumental means of our salvation,  
 by becoming the mother of Christ our Lord. The  
 language of Chrysologus which you next cite, can  
 bear no other interpretation<sup>p</sup>; and the rhetorical

<sup>n</sup> Gallandii Bibliotheca Patrum, t. vi. p. 465.

<sup>o</sup> The two first verses of the quotation from Sedulius, refer to  
 our Lord, not to the Virgin.

Unius ob meritum cuncti periere minores

Salvantur cuncti unius ob meritum.

(Sedulii Opera, ed. Arevalo, p. 361.)

<sup>p</sup> The whole passage is as follows. It occurs in a homily on  
 the generation of Christ, and the object is to shew, that “ Maria ”

expressions, taken from an oration of St. Cyril of Alexandria, which succeed them, are based on the same doctrine throughout. The oration consists almost entirely of a series of addresses in the same style; for instance, near the beginning, he says, “ Hail, city of Ephesus, more than ‘ sea-beholding,’ “ because, instead of earthly havens, angelical and “ heavenly havens [the bishops there met to protect “ the Christian faith against Nestorius] have come “ to thee ! Hail, glory of the Asiatic government, “ for as thou art surrounded with precious temples “ of the Saints like pearls, so now art thou hal- “ lowed by being trod by many holy Fathers and “ Patriarchs ! &c.”<sup>1</sup> In the same rhetorical strain he afterwards addresses the Virgin, in the words you have quoted; but the doctrine conveyed by those words is perfectly sound,—that Mary was an *instrumental* cause in the work of salvation, and in

was a fitting name for the mother of our Lord, because it *pre-  
ceded* salvation. “ And that ‘ Maria’ might always *go before* the “ salvation of men, it preceded with songs the people whom the “ regenerating water brought into light. ‘ Maria,’ (Miriam) he “ saith, ‘ the sister of Aaron, took a cymbal in her hand, saying, “ Let us sing to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously.’ “ This name, which was salutary to the regenerate, a sign of “ virginity, the grace of modesty, a sign of chastity, a sacrifice of “ God, the virtue of hospitality, an assemblage of holiness, was “ like a prophecy: justly therefore was this the maternal name of “ the Mother of Christ.” Petrus Chrysologus, Sermo cxlvi. Bibl. Patr.

<sup>1</sup> Cyril. Alexandr. Opera, ed. Aubert. t. v. pars ii. p. 379.

all that has happened in consequence, by being made the mother of our Lord.

Venantius Fortunatus, whom you next cite, teaches exactly the same doctrine<sup>r</sup>. The second verse of the distich distinctly carries its own interpretation.

Ad cælos *facta es* sors, via, porta, rota.

“Thou *wast made* the way and gate to Heaven,” refers evidently to her share in the incarnation of our Lord. It is in the same view, that he poetically entitles her “his hope of pardon, since she “*carries the Help of earth* ;” i. e. he supposes himself to address her before the birth of our Lord, an event on which all his hopes depend.

In all this, Sir, there is nothing whatever to which we can object. It has not the slightest tinge of idolatry or of superstition.

You next state, that “St. Ildephonsus seems to “go even further than the rest, and to consider, that “without *devotion* to her, there can *hardly* be hope of “salvation.” (p. 26.) I cannot think that you have perused the work from which you quote, or you

<sup>r</sup> The first passage quoted in the notes, p. 25, where the Virgin is spoken of as “the *help* of earth,” is explained fully by the context :

O Virgo insignis, benedicta ad gaudia nata,  
Auxilium terræ, fulgor honorque poli,  
Ecce tuus *florens* uterus quæ præstitit orbi,  
Te *generante*, fidenos paradisus habet.

Venant. Fortun. de Laud. Virg. Mariæ.



would have seen that Ildephonsus goes *further* than even you have stated, and really means, that without what you here call “devotion” to the Virgin, but which might more properly be termed “sound faith,” it is *impossible to be saved*. And in this sentiment of Ildephonsus *we most heartily agree*. He was arguing with a *Jew* who denied the Virginity of the Mother, and consequently denied that Jesus was the Messiah. It is to this unbeliever that he uses the language cited by you, after which he adds, “Come, let us confess, I the sins and ignorance of my youth; you the sins of your *sacrilege* and *wickedness*, lest the heavens reveal their indignation<sup>†</sup>.” The object was to urge the necessity of believing the Virginity of Mary; not to express confidence in her power

The Acts of St. Mary of Egypt, to which you next appeal (p. 26), have been already considered<sup>‡</sup>; and it has been shewn that there is no evidence for their antiquity.

The words of St. Gregory Nazianzen which you cite (p. 28) are immediately preceded by the following passage. “Despairing of all remedies, she (Justina) *takes refuge with God*, and makes her *Spouse* her *protector* against this detestable desire; who delivered Susanna, saved Thecla, &c. . . . Who is this but *Christ*, who rebukes

<sup>‡</sup> Ildephonsus, ap. Patres Tolet. Madrid. 1782. tom. i. p. 122.

<sup>†</sup> §. 3.

“ the spirits, lifteth up them that are sinking, “ walketh on the sea, &c.” Then follow the words cited by you ; “ Remembering these and “ many more [instances of *Christ’s* power], and “ beseeching the Virgin Mary to *aid* a virgin in “ danger “,” &c.

I would observe on the preceding passage, that it is conceived in such terms, “ beseeching the Virgin Mary to aid,” &c. that we cannot determine the *form* of prayer used. Justina may have employed a perfectly unexceptionable *form* of address to the Virgin. It may have been a mere request for the Virgin’s *prayers*<sup>x</sup>. Therefore this passage does not touch on the question between us ; which is not, whether all addresses to the Virgin are unlawful ; but whether it is right to invest her with the attributes of Deity. The passage, however, distinctly shews, that the whole confidence and reliance of Justina were fixed on *God* and *Christ*, while she merely sought the “ aid” of the

<sup>u</sup> Gregorii Nazianz. Opera, tom. i. p. 279. Par. 1609.

<sup>x</sup> Critics have remarked, that the Homily on St. Cyprian from which the above extract is taken, seems to have been composed from some very inaccurate traditions, probably derived from the monks. It confounds the lives of two Saints of the same name ; one of whom was Bishop of Carthage, while the other was of the Eastern Church. We cannot depend then on the historical correctness of this Homily, and the petition of Justina to the *Virgin* was most probably added by *recent* oral tradition. You need not suppose therefore (see p. 28.) that Justina, who died in 304, offered any such petition.

Virgin, as we ourselves might seek the “aid” of a fellow-creature in moments of difficulty.

I shall not here enter on the question of the propriety of asking for the prayers of the Saints—a practice, of which the *first* examples are found in the writings of Gregory Nazianzen<sup>y</sup>. The *abuses* which naturally flow from this practice, and of which the Romish prayers under consideration afford so melancholy an illustration, are in themselves perfectly sufficient to shew the wisdom of our Catholic and Apostolic Churches, in discontinuing the Invocation of Saints; and the Roman Church herself does not consider such invocations necessary<sup>z</sup>.

You produce long extracts from St. Gregory Nazianzen, and from Methodius (p. 28—31); but, as I have already shewn<sup>a</sup>, they are derived from *spurious* compositions.

Having now disposed of all your arguments

<sup>y</sup> It may be observed, that Nazianzen, when he addressed the departed in his orations, sometimes expressed doubts whether they could hear him. Thus in his Homily on Gorgonia, he says, “*If thou hast any care of the things done by us, &c. . . .*” “receive this oration of ours instead of many and before many funeral obsequies.”

<sup>z</sup> “The Council of Trent barely teaches that it is *good and profitable* to invoke the prayers of the Saints; hence our divines infer, that there is no positive law of the Church, incumbent on all her children, to pray to the Saints.” Milner, *End of Controversy*, Letter xxxiii.

<sup>a</sup> See §. 3.

in defence of the declarations and prayers under consideration, I may again be permitted to say, that you have not been able to produce any justification of them from the language of antiquity; and therefore my conclusion remains untouched, and even strengthened,—that the Virgin Mary receives amongst you honours which are only due to God.

III. You next undertake to defend the expressions of Cardinal Bona in his prayer to the Virgin; and here it may be remarked, that no notice has been taken in your pamphlet of some of the most objectionable parts of that prayer, in which the attributes of God are most broadly ascribed to the blessed Virgin; such as the following: “ Place me near unto thee, and protect me from all  
“ my enemies visible and invisible. *Say unto my*  
“ *soul*, I AM THY SALVATION. Direct me thy  
“ servant in all my ways and actions. Console me  
“ in all my griefs and afflictions. Defend and pre-  
“ serve me from all evils and dangers. Turn thy  
“ face unto me when the end of my life shall  
“ come; and may *thy consolation* in that tre-  
“ mendous hour rejoice my spirit<sup>b</sup>,” &c. Surely these are exactly the terms in which we should address God—indeed they are the language actually employed for that purpose in holy Scripture; e. g. “ Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God.” (Ps. lix. 1.) “ Stop the way against them that

<sup>b</sup> Letter I, p. 18.

“persecute me : say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.” (Ps. xxxv. 3.) “O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes.” (Ps. cxix. 5.) “Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort.” (Ps. cxix. 76.) “Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.” (Ps. lxiv. 1.) “Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine ; and we shall be saved.” (Ps. lxxx. 7.)

But I turn to the passage which you have selected for defence. It is as follows :

“Behold, I fall down before thee, most gracious Virgin, I fall down and worship IN THEE thy Son.”

You boldly deny this passage to be idolatrous, and your proof is, “The blessed Virgin is constantly called by the Fathers the *Temple* of God, consequently the place in which He is to be worshipped.” (p. 33.) We are accordingly favoured with long quotations from Chrysologus Ephrem Syrus, Cyril of Alexandria, Damascenus, Sedulius, Maximus Taurinensis, and a *spurious* passage from Methodius<sup>c</sup>. We fully allow the doctrine taught by all these Fathers. The blessed Virgin did, most undoubtedly, become the Temple of the Godhead, by conceiving our Lord Jesus Christ : but, Sir, do you mean to say, that *she is still the temple of the Godhead in this sense*? No : she ceased to be so, when our Saviour was born. I can produce higher authorities than you have

<sup>c</sup> pp. 33—36.



cited, to prove that *every believer* is a temple of God. St. Paul says, “ Know ye not that ye are “ the *temple* of God, and that the Spirit of God “ dwelleth in you ?” (1 Cor. iii. 16.) “ Know ye “ not that your body is the *temple* of the Holy “ Ghost which is in you ?” (1 Cor. vi. 19.) And yet, what would you think of saying to any living man, “ Behold, *I fall down before thee ; I fall down “ and worship IN THEE thy God ?*” Observe that the language of Bona is not, “ I worship *thy Son*, “ who dwelleth in thee as in a temple ;” but, “ I “ worship IN THEE, thy Son ;” i. e. “ In worship-  
“ ping THEE, I worship thy Son.”

In a note (p. 36.) you produce a passage from St. Ephrem Syrus, to prove that the mere *type* of our Lord may be worshipped in a *third* person ! I really do not profess to understand the meaning of this. The whole passage, as translated from the Syriac by Assemani, is as follows. “ The Year also, parent “ of all the months and days, with all the hours and “ moments which depend on it, adored [Christ] “ the Conqueror of death, by its child April [the “ month in which our Lord suffered]; like as “ Rachel through [her child] Jacob worshipped “ Joseph, whom, as a type of the Son of God, “ the Sun and Moon, the rulers of the year, “ adored<sup>d</sup>.” The allusion is to Joseph’s dream<sup>e</sup>, in which the Sun and Moon, representing his

<sup>d</sup> Ephræm Syri Opera, Syriaco-Lat. t. iii. p. 604.

<sup>e</sup> Genesis xxxvii. 9, 10.



father and mother, did obeisance to him ; and it is here introduced to illustrate the highly figurative language in reference to the Year. Assuredly St. Ephrem did not mean that Rachel or Jacob *really* and *literally* adored Joseph: he only alludes to a dream.

Your justification of Cardinal Bona having thus entirely failed, my conclusion remains unshaken,—that the Virgin receives amongst you honours which are only due to God.

IV. The next prayers which you undertake to defend are as follows.

“ Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, I offer to you my heart and my soul—Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, assist me in my last agony—Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, may my soul expire in peace with you.”  
Prayer approved by Pius VI.

“ O holy Joseph . . . . I beseech and pray thee, by both these dear pledges, Jesus and Mary . . . . to make me ever most chastely to serve Jesus and Mary, &c.” Approved by Pius VII.

You do not understand (p. 37.) what is meant by my observation, that our Lord is made a sort of *Mediator* between Joseph and his worshippers, in this latter prayer. The term perhaps did not fully express my meaning, which was, that Joseph is here invoked to have mercy on us *for the sake of Christ*, i. e. just in the same way in which we should approach the Father. We should beseech Him “ by his dear Son,” to make us serve Him.

Here the same form of supplication is addressed to Joseph.

Let us now turn to your defence of the prayers before us.

(1) You enquire first: “Does the union of “creatures with God, in the same *address* or “*act of homage*, imply their equality in the mind “of him who makes it?” (p. 37.) I answer, that it certainly does: unless there be some accompanying circumstance which implies that a difference is made.

You appeal to expressions of Terence and Horace (p. 37.); but they are not “addresses” or “acts of homage,” and therefore do not affect the question. You refer to the language of Scripture (1 Chron. xxix. 20, 21.) “And David said to all “the congregation, Now bless the Lord your God. “And all the congregation blessed the Lord God “of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, “and *worshipped the Lord and the King*. And “they offered sacrifices unto the Lord, and offered “burnt-offerings unto the Lord.” Here you will observe, that their thanksgivings, prayers, sacrifices, were directed entirely to *God*; therefore no one could imagine, that the act of bowing down their heads to worship the Lord and the King, (if both were worshipped in the same act, which may not have been the case,) could have been intended to express the same homage to each.

You observe (p. 37.) that our Lord is said to

have increased “in favour with *God* and *man*.” This furnishes no excuse for praying to God and man as if they had the same power. The language of the prodigal (p. 37.) to his *Father*, “I have sinned against Heaven and before thee,” does not justify you in addressing your prayers *in common* to God and man, as if they were *equally* the objects of faith and confidence.

The inscriptions which you next produce (p. 38.) in illustration of “the practice of the *early* Church,” will not assist you.

The first is accompanied by the following remark. “Muratori considers this inscription of the fifth or “ [early part of the] sixth century.” (p. 38.) On referring to Muratori<sup>f</sup>, I find that *three* most eminent critics, including Fontanini, Archbishop of Ancyra, attribute the inscription to the *ninth* century; that a fourth (Scalabrinius) thinks it ought to be referred to the fifth or sixth century; and that Muratori himself gives *no opinion as to its date*.

The second inscription (p. 38.) appears from Muratori<sup>g</sup> to be of the *ninth* century.

The third inscription (p. 38, 39.) cannot be earlier than the *seventh* century, because the title of “Arcarius of the Holy See” which occurs there, is not of more ancient date<sup>h</sup>. The inscription

<sup>f</sup> Muratori, *Antiquitates Medii Ævi*, tom. v. p. 358.

<sup>g</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>h</sup> Du Cangii *Glossarium*.

however may have been of much *later* date than the seventh century. These inscriptions then do not represent the language of the *early* Church.

The fourth inscription (p. 39.) according to you, “takes us back to the year 383 *at least*, as this “Bassus was slain before the reign of Gratian.” (p. 39.) The same inscription is adduced in your Letter to Mr. Poynder<sup>i</sup>, where it is again stated, that Anicius Bassus “lived about 380 years after “Christ,” and that “he is mentioned in ecclesiastical history as having with Marinianus the “patrician, most calumniously accused Pope Sixtus; upon whose full justification, his goods were “confiscated by Valentinian.” There is some sad flaw in your chronology here; for Pope Sixtus was not *elected* till A. D. 432<sup>k</sup>, and Valentinian flourished about the same time. How therefore you can “take us back” to 383, is entirely beyond my comprehension. “Ecclesiastical history” in the form of Baronius’ Annals, fixes the transaction alluded to in the year 433<sup>l</sup>.

As to the inscription itself, which you have produced, it can have no weight in a matter of controversy, proceeding as it did from the pen of a layman of no authority. Besides, we do not

<sup>i</sup> Wiseman, Letters to Poynder, p. 38.

<sup>k</sup> Baronius, Fleury, Hist. Eccl.

<sup>l</sup> Baronii Annales, t. vii. p. 460. ed. Lucæ, 1741. Ceillier rejects the whole transaction as fabulous, t. xiii. p. 240; but it appears from his account that Bassus was Consul in 431.

know where it was placed, or with what object. If these circumstances were known, they might aid us in judging of the propriety of the inscription. E. g. If it had been placed in a Church erected in honour of the Saints or Martyrs, it might not have been very unbecoming.

I have to make but one more observation on all these inscriptions : it is simply this. They contain no “ acts of homage,” no “ addresses” to God and the Saints in common, and therefore they cannot justify your prayers.

You next refer (p. 40.) to the well-known passage in St. Justin Martyr, where it is said, “ Him “ [God], and his Son who came from Him, and “ taught us these things, and the army of good “ Angels who follow and resemble Him, and the “ spirits of prophecy, we venerate and adore<sup>m</sup>.” You are of course aware, that the ablest critics, even in the Roman Church, are much divided as to the proper translation of this passage<sup>n</sup>, and that many writers render it thus : “ Him ; and his Son “ who came from Him, and taught us and the army “ of good angels these things ; and the Spirit,” &c. But even taking it as you do, the Angels are not *really* joined “ under the same form of expression” (p. 40.) with God ; for, as the Benedictine Editors

<sup>m</sup> Just. Mart. Apolog. i. p. 11. ed. Thirlby.

<sup>n</sup> The reader may here be referred to the valuable works of the Bishop of Lincoln on Justin Martyr, p. 53. and of Mr. Tyler on “ Primitive Christian Worship,” p. 107—111.



remark °, the word “venerate” refers to the Angels, and “adore” (προσκυνοῦμεν) to God. In another place Justin expressly says, “We adore (προσκυνοῦμεν) God only<sup>p</sup>.”

Thus then it appears, that you have been unable to produce either from Scripture or Antiquity, any language which can justify Romanists in addressing at the same moment the same homage and prayers to created beings and to God.

(2) Your second question (p. 41.) is: “Can it be idolatrous to desire or pray that the blessed Virgin and the Saints should receive our souls when we expire, or assist us at the hour of death?”

In proof of the lawfulness of this practice you observe, that St. Ambrose says the blessed Virgin will receive virgins when they die, and present them to her Son<sup>q</sup>. You next refer to what St. Gregory the Great relates on the authority of a person named Probus, whose sister beheld a vision of the Virgin as she was dying, and addressed her in the words, “Behold, Lady, I come<sup>r</sup>.” We are

° Σέβομεν καὶ προσκυνοῦμεν, colimus et adoramus. Nam primum quidem ad angelos ipsos refertur, habita ratione discriminis quod inter Creatorem et rem creatam intercedit. Alterum autem nequaquam angelos necessariò comprehendit. Sæpe duo verba simul conjuncta non ad unam et eandem rem, sed ad diversas judicio legentium referuntur. Just. Mart. ed. Benedict. p. xxii.

<sup>p</sup> Justin. Mart. Apol. i. p. 26. ed. Thirlby.

<sup>q</sup> Ambros. de Virgin. lib. ii. c. ii.

<sup>r</sup> Gregorii Dialog. l. iv. c. xvii.



next favoured with a *spurious* prayer of St. Ephrem, and with the language of Maximus in an Oration on St. Eusebius of Vercelli, in which he expresses a wish, that when we depart from this world, he may “receive us into his abode and his bosom<sup>\*</sup>,” as Abraham received Lazarus into his bosom. Other passages from the same writer follow, in which it is said that the Martyrs “receive us,” when we go forth from the body.

All this may be more or less right, probable, or true; but I cannot see how it meets the objection offered to your prayers. The real objection which I advanced was, that Jesus, Joseph, and Mary are placed *on an equality*, by being invoked in common at the same moment, to receive our souls. This would lead one to think that they are *equal*: that they are a Trinity of some sort—that they are three Gods, or three human beings. It is no answer to this objection to say, that the saints or angels receive our souls at the hour of death.

(3) Your third question (p. 43.) is: “Does the “ ‘serving of Jesus and Mary’ necessarily imply a “ *division* of service or allegiance between them; “ and not a bestowing on each a different species “ of it?”

In proof that it does not, you refer to the answer to the *first* question. It has been shewn, I think, that you will not find much help in that quarter.

\* Maximus, Hom. lxxviii.

As to the passage from Ildephonsus, which is adduced (p. 44.) in further proof, I need only remark, that it makes a broad distinction between the Virgin and God: “ Ideo ego servus tuus, quia “ tuus Filius *Dominus meus*. Ideo tu Domina “ mea, quia tu *ancilla Domini mei*’.” “ Thou art “ my mistress, because thou art *the handmaid of my “ Lord*.” These latter expressions you have thought proper to *omit*. In no part of the passage does Ildephonsus say, “ I serve Jesus and Mary,” or use any expressions like those that have been objected to.

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Such then is the result of your defence of the prayers and homage offered to the blessed Virgin by the most eminent authorities in the Roman Communion. You have not attempted to deny that they attribute Divine powers to creatures; that they solicit from them favours which God alone can bestow; that they place created beings on a level with their Creator. You have entirely failed to bring from Scripture or Tradition any instances of similar forms. I have a right therefore to re-assert that they are idolatrous; that your Communion is deeply tinged with idolatrous practices; and that those idolatries are openly defended and justified by the very persons, whose office (if it was legitimately acquired) would compel them,

’ Ildephonsus, ap. Patres Toletanos, p. 158. ed. 1782.

under pain of damnation, to oppose every thing that is connected with Idolatry.

It is to the *nature* of the prayers and other honours offered by you to the Virgin that we object, so that we shall not attempt to dispute the right of the Roman Church to use such prayers *frequently* (p. 45.) if they may be used at all. There is not the slightest evidence that the primitive Church ever practised such worship. We have no reason to think that any ancient devotional works (p. 45.) contained expressions like those which you employ. There is no trace of them in the ancient liturgies ; none in the genuine writings of the Fathers. They only appear in the writings of heretics, in spurious and apocryphal writings, or in the figurative language of poetry.

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I shall only make a few remarks on the remainder of your third section, in which a theory, which I have not time to examine, (p. 45—53.) is propounded to account for the greater veneration paid to the blessed Virgin in *later* than in earlier times. I cannot but wonder that you should appeal (p. 47.) to the martyrdom of St. Polycarp, in proof that “ devotion towards the martyrs began from “ the earliest ages.” I shall reserve the passage for future consideration : it is *decisively* opposed to you. You observe (p. 52.) that “ Christian monuments of the age of the Catacombs represent the

“ Virgin as superior to the Apostles themselves.” This is quite consistent with a sound faith, and yet it does not warrant our giving Divine honours either to one or the other. The figures to which you allude<sup>u</sup> may be as ancient as you imagine, but they resemble those found in manuscripts of a much later date.

In allusion to the Collyridian heresy, which elevated the blessed Virgin into a Deity, you remark, that “ this foolish idolatry could hardly have “ sprung up, where no sort of veneration had ever “ been paid.” (p. 52, 53.) Very true: but who supposes that “ *no sort of veneration* had ever been “ paid,” or that *no sort of veneration* is *due*? All that we contend against, is what the Collyridian heretics practised, and what Romanists *follow them* in practising, i. e. worshipping the Virgin with Divine honours; offering to her the same homage and worship which is offered to God. How you can venture to quote the language of Epiphanius, “ Let *honour* be given to Mary, but let only Father, “ Son, and Holy Ghost be *adored*,” (p. 53.) after having so systematically justified prayers and addresses in which the Virgin is placed on a level with the Trinity, is a matter of no small surprise to me.

<sup>u</sup> Sedulii Opera, ed. Arevalo, p. 351.

§. 4. *Dr. Wiseman's Defence of Prayers to Saints.*

I have maintained that the Saints receive amongst you "honours which are only due to God<sup>x</sup>," and in proof of this have cited the following passages.

"We will earnestly beseech with humble prayers  
"from the Prince of the Apostles Peter, and from  
"his co-Apostle Paul, that you may stand as a  
"wall. Relying on this delightful hope, we trust  
"that the Author and Finisher of our faith,  
"Jesus Christ, will at length console us in all our  
"tribulations." Encyclical.

"Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, I offer you my heart  
"and my soul, &c." as above, p. 35.

"Angel of God who art my guardian, *enlighten*  
"me who am committed to thee with heavenly  
"piety; guard, direct, and govern me." Approved  
by Pius VI.

"O holy Joseph . . . . . I beseech and pray thee  
" . . . . . to preserve me from all uncleanness, and  
"make me ever most chastely to serve Jesus and  
"Mary." Approved by Pius VII.

(1) Your first question on these prayers is as follows. "Is it idolatrous or wrong to address or  
"to speak of any Saints, more especially the two  
"great Apostles, as *protectors*?" (p. 55.)

I do not mean to say that it is idolatrous in all cases; but I do certainly think it wrong to attribute

<sup>x</sup> Letter I. p. 25.



to the Apostles the *protection of the Church*, while, in the very next words, we only attribute to Christ, its *consolation*; because this seems to place the Apostles on a *level* with our Saviour, to say the *least*. I think also that it is wrong to express at the same moment, in the same terms, the same confidence in God and in his creatures.

You refer to St. Basil's homily on the Forty Martyrs when he speaks in the following terms. "These are they who having obtained a place amongst us, (their relics were deposited in the Church of Cæsarea,) like continual towers, afford security from the incursions of the enemies<sup>y</sup>." That is, their memory and *example* was calculated to encourage Christians against the assaults of heresies and evil spirits. I do not see that we can deduce any thing more from this passage, or that it can justify your practice.

Your next proof is from Paulinus of Nola, who in an *epitaph*, and a *poetical* epitaph on the presbyter Clarus, desires his *prayers* for himself and his wife Therasia. The whole passage is free from any thing that looks like idolatry, and does not afford any justification of the prayers and expressions to which we object<sup>z</sup>. It is doubted whether the

<sup>y</sup> οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ τὴν καθ' ἡμᾶς χώραν διαλαβόντες, οἵονεὶ πύργοι τινὲς συνεχεῖς, ἀσφάλειαν ἐκ τῆς τῶν ἐναντίων καταδρομῆς παρεχόμενοι. Basilii Opera, t. ii. p. 135. ed. Benedict.

<sup>z</sup> Sic Deus accivit, sic nos Martinus amavit  
Sic et tu pariter Clare tuere pares.



passion of Genesius was written by Paulinus of Nola, but the exhortation is to pray for the *intercession* of Genesius, “Patrocinetur” may well be translated, “plead for<sup>a</sup>.” The next extracts from Paulinus are *poetical*, and cannot afford precedents for prayers, and solemn declarations. It was *supposed* by many persons, that the martyrs took a particular interest in those places where their relics were deposited, and honoured; and that they prayed for them. This notice, however uncertain, led to expressions of confidence in their intercession and patronage with reference to those particular places.

The language of St. Prudentius (p. 56.) amounts to a wish that St. Laurence may *love* his fellow-citizens; and the same sentiment in another form, appears in his hymn on St. Eulalia. (Ibid.) But these again are *poetical* expressions, such as any Christian poet who disapproved of your prayers might still employ.

The language of Gaudentius, Venantius, Leo, Chrysostom, Maximus, (pp. 57, 58.) merely shews that those writers sometimes used the terms of

Non meritis sed amore pares, tu sancte valebis

*Exorare* pares et meritis fieri,

Si cum Martino socia pietate labores,

Ut vincant vestræ crimina nostra *preces*.

Paulinus Epist. xxxii. ad Severum, ed. Muratori.

<sup>a</sup> Paulini Passio S. Genesii, p. 316.

“ patronage” or “ protection,” when they alluded to the prayers of the Saints to God for men. This does not excuse you for expressing your confidence at the *same time* and in the *same manner*, in the power of God and of His creatures. It does not justify Gregory XVI. for asserting that Peter and Paul *protect* the Church, while Christ *consoles* it. It does not excuse you for “ offering your “ hearts and souls” to “ Jesus, Joseph, and “ Mary,” instead of to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

You are right in saying that the bishop of Rome might safely repeat the homilies of St. Leo, “ with-  
“ out disparagement to his claim of supremacy,” (p. 58.) ; for no one was more zealous to maintain and augment the dignity of his See. The “ pro-  
“ tection” of which St. Leo speaks in the passage you have cited, refers to the *promise of Christ* that Peter’s faith should not fail, Luke xxii. 21. which St. Leo uses as an encouragement to us<sup>b</sup>. His continual object was to represent that St. Peter still lived *in his successors*, and that all the promises made to him, were made to the bishops of Rome also<sup>c</sup>.

It is doubtful whether any such verses as you mention (p. 59.) were ever inscribed over the gate of Glastonbury Church ; for the book of William

<sup>b</sup> Opera, ed. Quesnel. t. i. p. 18.

<sup>c</sup> Opera, t. i. p. 103, 104—106, 110, 112.

of Malmsbury “on the Antiquities of Glastonbury,” from which they are taken, is full of fabulous narrations, supplied probably by the monks of Glastonbury.

(2) The next question is as follows: “Is it “*direct prayer to Saints, for favours which God alone can bestow*, that Mr. Palmer so strongly reprobates “in the examples last quoted? Surely he ought to “be aware that in the ancient Church such prayers “were admitted.” (p. 59.)

Your citations do not prove this. St. Gregory of Nyssa states, that a person by saying, “*Holy Ephrem help (assist) me<sup>d</sup>*,” escaped from a dangerous position. Such an expression does not interfere with the Divine attributes. It is widely different from your prayers to Saints. We may be “helped” by a fellow-creature: but we have no right to ask from him blessings, and graces, as if he were a Divinity. The language of Gregory Nazianzen (p. 60.) is plainly rhetorical. It occurs in an Oration in praise of St. Cyprian. That of St. John Chrysostom (p. 60.) recognises throughout the *Divine power*, and supposes that the Saints can only aid us by their *prayers*. The same may be said of the succeeding quotations from Chrysostom, and Gregory of Nyssa. (p. 61.) The passage cited from Basil (p. 61.) does not seem to me to refer to any invocation of Saints. It is

<sup>d</sup> Nyssen. Opera, t. iii. p. 615. ed. 1638.

thus introduced: “Where two or three are gathered  
 “together in the name of the Lord, there is He in  
 “the midst of them. Where there are *forty*, [in  
 “allusion to the relics of the forty Martyrs,] who  
 “doubts that *He is present*? The afflicted takes  
 “refuge with the forty Martyrs [i. e. in their  
 “Church].” Then follows the remainder of your  
 quotation<sup>e</sup>. The meaning is, that prayers may  
 be offered *to God* in the Church of the Martyrs,  
 with *peculiar confidence*. The passage from St.  
 Ambrose (p. 61, 62.) distinctly supposes that the  
 Angels and Martyrs aid us by their *prayers*, and  
 that they are creatures as we are.

In none of these cases were “direct prayers”  
 offered “to Saints, for favours which God alone  
 “can bestow.”

The next passage, from St. Ambrose, is an  
 exhortation of a pious matron to her son to devote  
 himself entirely to God, in which she says,  
 “There we deposited our vows whence we took  
 “the name. The effect followed our vows: give  
 “therefore back to the Martyr, what thou hast  
 “received from the Martyr<sup>f</sup>.” The meaning is,  
 that she had offered her vows to God at the Church  
 of the Martyr St. Laurence, and that the Martyr  
 had “*obtained*” (p. 63.) by his prayers this child.  
 This merely supposes that the prayers of a Martyr  
 had great efficacy. The language in reference to

<sup>e</sup> Basil. Homil. in XL Martyrs, t. ii. p. 155. ed. Benedict.

<sup>f</sup> Ambros. Exhort. Virgin. c. iii.

Felix and Laurentius (p. 63.) is poetical, and cannot be judged with the strictness which should be applied to prose compositions. The same observation is applicable to that of S. Prudentius (p. 64.) Doubtful of his own merits, he wishes for the additional prayers of the Saint. As for the sentiments of Valerian, bishop of Cemela, we cannot attach any weight to what has been rather injudiciously said by this obscure writer, in opposition to the sentiments of the most eminent Fathers which I shall hereafter produce.

In conclusion, I will only observe, that in no one of the passages adduced by you are there any direct prayers to Saints for favours which God only can bestow : nor are the Saints addressed at the same time and in the same manner as God. Consequently the objections which have been offered to your prayers and language remain unanswered.

#### §. 5. *Romanism condemned by Catholic Antiquity.*

Having now completed the examination of your defence, and shewn that the appeal which you have made to Catholic Antiquity in justification of Romish addresses to Saints and Angels, is perfectly unavailing ; it remains for me to produce the *real* sentiments of the Fathers, not derived from *spurious* or *heretical* compositions, but from their own genuine writings. It remains for me to shew, that the principles and the practice of Romanists are



equally condemned by Catholic Antiquity—that they are derived from Heresies and Idolatries repudiated by the Catholic Church. You have appealed to Catholic Antiquity. Will you consent to stand or fall by its real verdict ?

Which doctrine then is the most conformable to that of the primitive Church ? *We* are of opinion that religious worship is due to God only, and not to any *creature* whatever, be it angel, spirit, man, beast, or inanimate creature. *We honour and love* Angels and Saints, because they are loved by God ; but we think it wrong to offer religious worship to any being whatever but God. We hold that *prayer* ought only to be offered to God—that it is a species of *sacrifice* which is only due to the Divine nature. We think that it is unlawful to repose our hope, trust, or confidence in any creature. We think it *needless* to ask for the intercession of Saints and Angels to render us acceptable to God ; and we believe that we ought ourselves boldly to approach the Throne of Grace, confiding in the intercession of Jesus Christ. We think it unlawful to unite the name of God with that of his creatures in prayer, and to offer the same acts of homage to them. The doctrines and practice of Romanists are opposed to ours on all these points. Let us then place the question before the Fathers, and ascertain their decision.

I. “ Is it lawful to worship any other being but God ? Is all religious worship to be offered to Him



alone? And are the Saints, Angels, and other created beings, only to be loved, honoured, imitated, or regarded, as the case may be?"

The doctrine of Christian Antiquity is decisive on this point. Justin Martyr, who wrote little more than a century after the death of our Lord, in describing to the Emperor Antoninus the doctrines inculcated by our Saviour, speaks thus: "That it is necessary to *worship God alone*, (Christ) thus persuaded us, saying, 'The greatest commandment is, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve, with all thy heart and with all thy strength; even the Lord God who made thee;' and when a certain person came and said to Him, 'Good Master,' He answered, saying, 'None is good save God only, who made all things.' But they who are not found living according to his instructions, be it known that *they are not Christians* . . . . He answered them, saying, 'Render therefore unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's.' Wherefore *we worship God only*, but in other respects we are gladly obedient to you<sup>s</sup>." It may perhaps be said, that the restriction of all worship to *God* in this passage, had reference only to the Heathen worship of false gods or deified men, and was not intended as any denial of that worship.

<sup>s</sup> Justin Martyr, *Apologia Prima*, p. 25, 26. ed. Thirlby.

which is due to Saints and Angels. This is a distinction entirely without foundation, because, as will be shewn, the Fathers objected in general to *the worship of any creatures whatever*; and on this one broad principle rejected equally the false gods of the Heathen, and the idolatrous heresies of the Collyridians and Angelici. But I shall now produce a passage to which you have alluded, (p. 48.) and which is conclusive against you.

It is taken from perhaps the most beautiful monument of Christian Antiquity—I mean the Acts of the martyrdom of St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, which were composed A. D. 167, immediately after the events which they narrate. It appears, that after the martyrdom of Polycarp, the enemies of the Christians endeavoured to prevent them from obtaining his remains. They urged the Roman Proconsul not to give up the body, “ Lest, forsaking the crucified (Jesus), they  
“ should begin to *adore* this man. And this they  
“ said by the suggestion and aid of the *Jews*, who  
“ had watched our endeavours to remove him from  
“ the fire, being ignorant that we can never forsake  
“ Christ, who suffered for the salvation of those  
“ who are saved out of all the world, *nor adore*  
“ *any other*. For Him, as being the Son of God,  
“ *we worship*; but the Martyrs, as being disciples  
“ and imitators of the Lord, *we love as they deserve*,  
“ on account of their unconquerable love to their

“ King and Master<sup>h</sup>. ” No words can more plainly teach our doctrine—that worship is due to God only. This is also the language of Athenagoras, a writer of the second century, “ We (Christians) “ do not approach (spiritual) powers, and *serve* “ *them*; but their Lord and Master<sup>i</sup>. ”

St. Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons, and a friend of the holy Martyr Polycarp, says, that “ our Lord “ manifestly shewed that the Lord, who had been “ declared by the Law, is the true and one God, “ for He whom the Law (of Moses) had announced “ as God, Christ shews to be the Father, *whom* “ *alone the disciples of Christ must serve . . .* The “ Law commands us to *praise God the Creator,* “ *and to serve Him only<sup>k</sup>,* ” &c. Compare this with the prayer to St. Joseph<sup>l</sup>, that he will “ make us “ *serve Jesus and Mary.* ” The language of St. Theophilus of Antioch, who lived in the latter part of the second century, is equally clear. “ A “ king,” he says, “ does not wish those who are “ subject to him to be called kings ” [i. e. to receive royal honours]. “ For ‘ the king ’ is his “ title, and it is unlawful for any other person “ to be called so. In like manner *it is not lawful*

<sup>h</sup> Eccles. Smyrnensis Epist. de S. Polycarp. Martyr. ap. Patres Apostol. t. ii. p. 585. ed. Jacobson.

<sup>i</sup> Athenagoras, Legat. pro Christianis, ap. Gallandii Bibl. Patr. ii. p. 15.

<sup>k</sup> Irenæus, adv. Hæres. lib. v. c. 22. ed. Benedict.

<sup>l</sup> See above, p. 35.

“ *to worship any but God only* <sup>m</sup>.” This, you will observe, is the very argument I have employed against your acts of external worship to the Virgin and Saints. An earthly king would be offended at seeing royal honours paid to his subjects : and it is unlawful to act towards God in a way which we should not dare to attempt with an earthly Sovereign.

St. Clement of Alexandria considers it a principal point of religion to “ *worship one God alone, who is* “truly omnipotent” ;” and the same doctrine is taught in various places by Tertullian<sup>o</sup>. Thus, in his reflections on Prayer, he remarks on the wisdom of our Lord’s command “ of praying in secret, by which “ he . . . desired the lowliness of faith, that to *Him* “ *alone, whom he believed to hear and to see every* “ *where, he would offer his worship* <sup>p</sup>.” These sentiments remained with Tertullian even after he had fallen into the heresy of Montanus : “ It is enjoined “ me,” he says in his Scorpiace, “ not to call any “ other being God ; that I should not even in “ speaking, by my tongue no less than by my hand “ make a God ; that *I should not adore, or in any* “ *manner venerate, any other but that One who thus*

<sup>m</sup> Theophil. Antiochen. lib. i. ad Autolyceum, c. xi. Gallandii Bibliotheca Patrum, t. ii. p. 84.

<sup>n</sup> Stromata, lib. vi. t. ii. Oper. p. 825. ed. Potteri.

<sup>o</sup> Athenagoras, Legat. pro Christianis, *ubi supra*, p. 13.

<sup>p</sup> Tertullian, De Orat. p. 129. ed. Rigaltii Par. 1664.

“ commands ; whom I am also commanded to *fear*,  
 “ lest I be forsaken by Him <sup>q</sup>. ”

The language of the Fathers was always the same ; St. Cyprian says, that evils are inflicted on men, “ in order that the One *God* of all, may be  
 “ alone *worshipped and prayed to by all*. ” St. Dionysius of Alexandria says, “ We worship and  
 “ adore the One God and Creator of all things  
 “ who entrusted the empire to Valerian and Gallie-  
 “ nus beloved of God . . . . *We worship no other* <sup>s</sup>. ”  
 Such also was the language of the Martyr Fructuosus Bishop of Tarragona, (about A. D. 262.) “ I  
 “ *worship* one God, who made heaven and earth and  
 “ all that therein is. ” When his Deacon Eulogius was asked whether he would worship Fructuosus after his death, he replied, “ I worship not Fructuosus, but I worship Him whom Fructuosus  
 “ worships also <sup>t</sup>. ” Lactantius says, “ No other  
 “ religion and *worship* is to be held, but that of  
 “ one God <sup>u</sup>. ”

St. Athanasius supplies us with the *principle* on which the Church refused to worship any being except God. It was not merely because heathens and heretics worshipped *false* or *imaginary* Gods :

<sup>q</sup> Tertull. Scorpiace, p. 490.

<sup>r</sup> Cyprian, ad Demetrian, p. 232. ed. Rigaltii, 1649.

<sup>s</sup> Eusebii Hist. Eccl. lib. vii. c. 11. p. 258. ed. Valesii.

<sup>t</sup> Baronii Annales, Anno 262. §. 60. t. iii. p. 126. ed. Lucæ 1738.

<sup>u</sup> Lactantii Instit. l. i. c. 20. ap. Galland. Bibl. Patr. iv. 245.



it was, on this broad, plain, and most rational principle—that religious worship was unsuitable to any *creature*—that it belonged only to the Creator of all things. He argues that Christ is God because he is worshipped, for that no one except God can be worshipped. His argument is very remarkable.

“*One creature,*” he says, “*doth not worship another,* but the servant his master, the creature his God. Whence Peter the Apostle hindered Cornelius when he wished to worship him, saying, ‘I also am a man.’ The Angel also hindered John when he wished to worship him in the Apocalypse, saying, ‘See thou do it not, for I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren the Prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book, *Worship God.*’ Therefore it belongs to God only to be worshipped. And this the Angels themselves know, that although they excel others in glory, they are yet all *creatures*, and are *not in the number of those who are to be worshipped*, but of them who *worship the Lord*.” It may be remarked here, that it would be perfectly absurd to imagine even for a moment, that Cornelius or St. John could have really intended to give *Divine honours* to Peter or the Angel. Nevertheless their worship was in each case forbidden; and according to St. Athanasius it is only due to God.

\* Athanasii Orat. ii. contra Arianos, t. i. p. 491. Oper. ed. Benedict.



And the principle on which such worship is forbidden is, that *creatures* are not to be worshipped.

This principle is also laid down by St. Gregory of Nyssa in the following terms. “ That none of  
 “ those things which have their being by *creation*  
 “ is to be worshipped by men the Divine word  
 “ hath enacted, as we may learn from almost all the  
 “ divinely-inspired Scripture. Moses, the Tables,  
 “ the Law, the Prophets afterwards, the Gospels,  
 “ the doctrine of all the Apostles, equally forbid  
 “ the *looking unto the creature*.” He then observes,  
 that the neglect of this introduced heathen idolatry;  
 and continues thus: “ Lest we should suffer the  
 “ same things, who have been instructed by the  
 “ Scriptures to look to the true Godhead; we  
 “ have been taught to understand, that *every*  
 “ *created thing* is different from the Divine nature,  
 “ and to *adore and worship only the uncreated*  
 “ *nature*, the character of which is never to begin  
 “ and never to end its existence<sup>y</sup>.”

The language of Hilary, a deacon of the Roman Church in the time of Pope Damasus<sup>z</sup>, is also very

<sup>y</sup> Gregor. Nyss. contra Eunom. Orat. iv. t. ii. p. 144, 146. Oper. ed. Paris, 1615.

<sup>z</sup> The commentary on the Epistles from which I quote, has been commonly attributed to St. Ambrose, but the researches of learned men have assigned its composition to Hilary. This writer had fallen into the schism of Lucifer bishop of Cagliari, but appears to have been reunited to the Church, as he speaks in very honourable terms of Pope Damasus. See Natalis Alexander, Hist. Eccl. sæc. iv. c. vi. art. 14.

remarkable, from its refutation of the pretences on which the worship of created beings has been justified in ancient and modern times. Speaking of the heathen he says: “ They are accustomed, in order to cover the shame of neglecting God, to use a miserable excuse, saying, that by them [created beings] they can *approach* God, as we approach a king by his ministers. . . . Come then: Is any one so *mad*, so *unmindful of his safety*, as to give the *king’s honour to a minister*—when, if any were even found treating on such a matter, they would be justly condemned as guilty of high treason? And yet these men do not think themselves guilty who give the honour of God’s name to a *creature*, and leaving the Lord *adore their fellow-servants*; as if there was any thing more that could be reserved to God. For we approach the king by his ministers, because he is only a man, and knows not to whom he may entrust the state. But to propitiate God, from whom nothing is hid, (for he knows what all men deserve,) there is no need of any other spokesman but a devout mind. Wheresoever such an one shall speak to Him, he will answer him<sup>a</sup>. ”

It is evident from this, that the heathen did not intend to give the same honour to their deified men and to God: they regarded them as mediators,

<sup>a</sup> Comment. in Epist. ad Rom. c. i. Inter Ambrosii Opera, t. ii. Appendix, p. 33. ed. Benedict.

or as greatly inferior to the Supreme Deity. This is distinctly stated indeed by Tertullian, "Many," he says, "dispose the Godhead so, as to acknowledge that One has the empire or supreme government, but that many are engaged in His service; as Plato describes Jupiter in heaven accompanied by an army of gods and spirits." It would be easy to confirm the truth of this statement from Orosius, Celsus, Hierocles, and other heathen writers. It is evident therefore, that the heathen did not mean, any more than Romanists do, to give supreme honours to beings who were inferior to the One Deity. And yet the Fathers most strenuously resisted *every act of external worship* offered to any being except God, on the broad principle which we also maintain, that *religious worship of every sort* is due only to the Creator—never to the creature.

St. Ambrose says, "We read that nothing but *God alone* is to be adored, for it is written, "Thou shalt *worship* the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve<sup>b</sup>." St. Jerome, in describing the worship of the Christians, speaks thus; "We do not *worship and adore* (I do not say merely) the relics of the martyrs, but not even the Sun and Moon, the Angels or Archangels, the Cherubim, Seraphim, or any name that is named in this world or the world to come, *lest we should*

<sup>b</sup> Ambros. de Spiritu Sancto, l. iii. c. 11. Oper. t. ii. p. 680. ed. Benedict.

“ *serve the creature* more than the Creator, who is  
 “ *blessed for ever*. But we *honour* the relics of the  
 “ *Martyrs*, that we may *adore Him* whose Martyrs  
 “ *they are*.” St. Gregory Nazianzen says, that  
 the “one rule of piety is, to *worship* the Father,  
 “ the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the one Godhead  
 “ and Power in three Persons, *honouring nothing*  
 “ *above or beneath God* . . . . the former of which  
 “ would be impossible, and the latter *impious*.”<sup>d</sup>  
 St. Hilary of Poitiers teaches the same truth :  
 “ You are not ignorant that religious devotion  
 “ *towards a creature, is accursed*.” St. Ambrose  
 in another place uses expressions which come still  
 more home to the question between us. “ Without  
 “ doubt the Holy Ghost is to be adored, since He  
 “ also is to be adored, who, according to the flesh,  
 “ was born of the Spirit. And lest any one should  
 “ derive the same [adoration] *to the Virgin Mary* ;  
 “ Mary was the *temple* of God, but *not the God of*  
 “ *the temple* ; and therefore *He only is to be adored*  
 “ *who operated in that temple*.”<sup>f</sup> How completely

<sup>c</sup> Hieronymi Epist. xxxvii. al. liii. ad Riparium, t. iv. pars ii. p. 279. Oper. ed. Benedict.

<sup>d</sup> Gregor. Nazianz. Orat. xiv. Oper. t. i. p. 221. ed. Paris, 1609.

<sup>e</sup> Hilar. Pietav. de Trinitate, lib. viii. p. 963. Oper. ed. Benedict. Compare the note of the Benedictine Editors ; who state that Ambrose, Basil, Athanasius, Nyssene, &c. employ this principle in their proofs of the Divinity of our Lord.

<sup>f</sup> Ambros. de Spiritu Sancto, lib. iii. c. 11. p. 681. t. ii. ed. Bened.

this language of St. Ambrose overthrows all your argument in defence of Cardinal Bona's prayer. Theodoret is equally strict in refusing all religious worship to any but God: "We *honour* those men " who live virtuously, as most excellent *men*; but " we *worship only* the God and Father of all, and " his Word, and Holy Spirit<sup>s</sup>." Epiphanius, like St. Ambrose, rejects the worship of the Virgin Mary and the Saints. " Which of the prophets " permitted a man (not to speak of a woman) to be " *worshipped*? For she (the Virgin) is indeed a " chosen vessel, but a *woman*, and in no respect " changed in nature. . . . . But neither is Elias to " be worshipped, though amongst the living; nor " is John to be worshipped, . . . . . neither is " Thecla, nor any of the Saints to be worshipped. " For that ancient error shall not prevail over us, " to forsake the living God, and to *worship the " things that are made by Him*, for 'they served and " worshipped the creature above the Creator, and " became fools.' For if *He will not have the Angels " to be worshipped, how much more would he not " have (Mary) her that was born of Anna*<sup>b</sup>." St. Augustine also condemns your practice: " Let not " the *worship of dead men*," he says, " be our " religion; for if they lived piously, they are not to " be supposed to seek for such honours, but they

<sup>s</sup> Theodoret. Græcar. Affect. Sermo ii. p. 502. t. iv. Oper. ed. Sirmond.

<sup>b</sup> Epiphan. Hæres. lxxix. tom. ii. Oper. ed. Petavii, p. 1062.



“ wish Him to be worshipped by us, by whose  
 “ enlightening they rejoice that we are partners of  
 “ their merit. They are therefore to *be honoured*  
 “ *for imitation, not worshipped for religion.* . . . . We  
 “ honour them (the Angels) with *love*, not with  
 “ *service* ; nor do we build temples to them. For  
 “ they do not wish to be so honoured by us, because  
 “ they know that we ourselves, if we are good, are  
 “ temples of the high God. It is therefore rightly  
 “ written, (Rev. xxii. 9.) that a man was forbidden  
 “ by an angel that he should not worship him, but  
 “ *God alone*, under whom he was his fellow-  
 “ servant<sup>i</sup>. ”

I shall not carry the proof from Tradition any further at present. From what has been said, it must be evident I think to any candid mind, that Catholic Antiquity entirely accords with us, in believing that all religious worship is due to the holy Trinity *alone*; and that it is unlawful to impart it, *in any degree*, to creatures ; that even the *appearance* of worshipping creatures is to be avoided ; that Angels, and Saints, and even the Virgin Mother of Christ our God, are to be loved and honoured indeed, but never *worshipped* or *adored* in any manner whatever ; either above God, or equally with God, or even less than God.

II. “ Ought prayer and praise only to be offered

<sup>i</sup> Augustin. de Vera Relig. c. lv. t. i. Oper. ed. Benedict. p. 786, 787.



“ to God and not to any creature? Is it a species  
 “ of sacrifice which is only due to the Deity? And  
 “ are we bound to place our hope, trust, and con-  
 “ fidence in God only, and in no creature what-  
 “ ever?”

These questions are immediately connected with that which has just been considered; and all the sentiments of the Fathers which have been adduced, bear most directly on them; for prayer, and praise, trust, and confidence, are all *parts* of internal or external worship or adoration. If it be unlawful then to adore or worship creatures, it is equally unlawful to offer them religious prayer or praise, or to place hope and confidence in them. But I proceed to bring specific proofs from the Fathers, in confirmation of our doctrine, and in condemnation of the doctrine and practice so common and so authorized in the Roman Communion.

I shall commence with St. Irenæus. “ As the  
 “ Church,” he says, “ has freely received from the  
 “ Lord, so does she freely minister; nor does she  
 “ do any thing *by invocation of Angels*, nor by  
 “ incantations, nor by *any evil curiosity*; but by  
 “ directing her prayers *cleanly*, and *purely*, and  
 “ openly, to the Lord who made all things, and  
 “ calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ<sup>k</sup>.”  
 It is evident from this, that St. Irenæus thought it

<sup>k</sup> Irenæus, adv. Hæres. l. ii. c. xxxii. ed. Benedict. p. 166.

unlawful to pray to Angels or any created being. St. Clement of Alexandria is equally explicit: "It is," he says, "the extreme of ignorance to ask from those who are not Gods, as though they were Gods . . . . . Whence, since there is only one good God, both we ourselves and the Angels *supplicate from Him alone*, that some good things might be given to us, and that others might remain with us<sup>1</sup>." That prayer is a *sacrifice* due to God, is taught by the same Father in the following terms: "We do not without cause *honour God by prayer*, and with righteousness send up *this best and holiest sacrifice*<sup>m</sup>." It is also maintained by Tertullian, thus: "We Christians pray for all rulers a long life, a secure government . . . . . These things *I cannot ask in prayer from any other except Him from whom I know that I shall obtain*; both because He is the one who alone grants, and I am the one whom it behoveth to obtain by prayer; being his servant, *who looks to Him alone*, who for his religion am put to death, who offer to Him *a rich and a greater sacrifice which He hath commanded—even prayer proceeding from a chaste body, from a harmless soul, from a holy spirit*<sup>n</sup>."

"If," said Athenagoras, "*we lift up pure hands to Him (God)*, what need is there of a hecatomb?"

<sup>1</sup> Clemens Alexandr. Stromata, lib. vii. p. 853. ed. Potteri.

<sup>m</sup> Stromata, lib. vii. p. 848. See also p. 850.

<sup>n</sup> Tertull. Apologet. c. 30. p. 27. Oper. ed. Rigaltii.

“ . . . . . What have I to do with burnt offerings,  
 “ which God does not require, though it be neces-  
 “ sary to offer to Him a bloodless sacrifice, and a  
 “ reasonable service ° ? ”

The sacrifices of prayer and praise were then only to be offered up to God ; as Origen expressly says. “ Every prayer, and supplication, and inter-  
 “ cession, and thanksgiving, is to be sent up unto  
 “ God who is above all, through the High Priest  
 “ who is above all angels, the living Word and  
 “ God. . . . . For it is not reasonable that those  
 “ who do not comprehend the knowledge of  
 “ Angels, which is beyond men, should *invoke*  
 “ *them*. And even supposing that their know-  
 “ ledge, which is somewhat marvellous and secret,  
 “ were comprehended ; this very knowledge, de-  
 “ claring their nature and the things over which  
 “ they are appointed, *would not permit us to pre-*  
 “ *sume to pray to any other but unto God*, the Lord  
 “ over all, who is sufficient for all, through our  
 “ Saviour, the Son of God <sup>p</sup>.” Nothing can be more conclusive—more decisively condemnatory of the practice of Romanists.

In another place Origen confirms our view very strongly : “ To those who *place their confidence in*  
 “ *the Saints*, we fitly produce as an example,  
 “ ‘ Cursed is the man which hopeth in man ;’  
 “ and again, ‘ Do not put your trust in man ;’

° Athenagoras, *ubi supra*, p. 13.

<sup>p</sup> Origen. cont. Celsum, lib. v. p. 580. t. i. Oper. ed. Delarue.

“ and another, ‘ It is better to trust in the Lord  
 “ than in princes.’ If it be necessary to put our  
 “ trust in any one, *Let us leave all others, and hope*  
 “ *in the Lord*<sup>a</sup> ”

Novatian, presbyter of the Roman Church in the middle of the third century, argues, as many of the Fathers have done, that Christ is God, because He is every where invoked. “ If Christ be only man,” he says, “ how is He present, being invoked every  
 “ where, since it is not the nature of man but of  
 “ God to be present in every place? . . . If Christ  
 “ be only man, why is *hope reposed in Him*, when  
 “ *hope in man is said to be accursed*<sup>r</sup>?” Had Invocation of Saints been practised at that time in the Church, Novatian could not have argued thus; because the immediate answer would have been, that Christ was invoked as a man, even as the Saints were. But his argument is directly opposed to any calling on created beings.

The doctrine of St. Athanasius is also strongly opposed to you. “ It is written, ‘ Be my protecting God, my house of refuge, and save me,’

<sup>a</sup> Hom. iv. in Ezechiel, p. 373. t. iii. The Latin translation, from which the above passage is taken, was made by St. Jerome.

<sup>r</sup> Novatianus, De Trinitate, c. xiv. This Treatise was frequently attributed to Tertullian or Cyprian, even in the time of St. Jerome, as he remarks, Catalog. Script. Eccl. c. 81, and Apolog. cont. Ruffin. lib. ii. Natalis Alexander has shewn that the doctrine of this Treatise is sound. Hist. Eccl. Sæc. ii. Dissert. xi. art. iv.

“ and ‘ the Lord was the refuge of the poor,’ and  
“ whatever things of the same sort are found in  
“ Scripture. But if they say that these things are  
“ spoken of the Son, which would perhaps be true,  
“ let them confess, that the Saints *did not think of*  
“ *calling on a created being* to be their helper and  
“ house of refuge<sup>\*</sup>.” Compare this with the prayer  
addressed to the Virgin by Cardinal Bona, and  
those to the Virgin and Joseph which have been  
produced.

It is really hard to imagine, how, in the face of  
such sentiments, Romanists can dare to appeal to  
Catholic Antiquity in justification of their idolatrous  
prayers to created beings. You have, however,  
explained what might otherwise have been  
hard to account for. You have demonstrated, that  
Romanism depends for its justification on *forged*  
and *spurious* compositions. You have proved, that  
it is still necessary to resort to such dishonest  
arts; that men of literary character like yourself  
are obliged to cling to them, in the desperate  
effort to support a bad and a feeble cause. It is  
in this way that your unhappy followers are de-  
ceived, blinded, and ruined.

We affirm with all the Fathers, that prayer is  
only to be offered to God. Look through their  
pages, and you will find that this doctrine enters  
into their very notion of prayer. “ Prayer is a

\* Athanasii Orat. i. cont. Arianos, tom. i. p. 466. ed. Benedict.



“ request of some good thing made by pious men  
 “ *to God*,” says St. Basil<sup>t</sup>. It is “ a discoursing  
 “ with *God*” according to St. Gregory Nyssene<sup>u</sup>—  
 “ a colloquy with *God*,” according to St. John  
 Chrysostom<sup>x</sup>—“ an ascension of the mind *to God*,  
 “ or a request of fit things *from God*,” according  
 to John Damascenus<sup>y</sup>. *Could* any of these Fathers  
 have prayed to Saints? The thing is wholly im-  
 possible.

We have heard the doctrine of St. Athanasius :  
 let us now attend to that of one of his successors,  
 St. Theophilus of Alexandria. “ How shall they  
 “ call on Him in whom they have not believed?  
 “ It is necessary in the first place to believe that  
 “ the Son of God *is*, in order that *calling on Him*  
 “ be right and reasonable ; and as *he who is not*  
 “ *God is not to be adored*, so, on the other hand,  
 “ He that is God, is to be adored<sup>z</sup>.” Here we see  
 that invoking or “ calling on” any one by prayer,  
 is a part of adoration, and as such is due to God  
 only. Hilary, Deacon of Rome, in commenting on  
 the fourth chapter of the Epistle to the Colossians,

<sup>t</sup> Basil. Orat. in Julitiam Martyr. Oper. t. ii. p. 33. ed. Benedict.

<sup>u</sup> Nyssen. Orat. ii. de Oratione Dom. Oper. ii. 724.

<sup>x</sup> Chrysost. Orat. ii. de Orat.

<sup>y</sup> Damascenus, De Fide Orthodox. lib. iii. c. 24. Oper. t. i. p. 248.

<sup>z</sup> Theophil. Alexandrinus, Paschal. ii. p. 718. t. iv. Bibl. Patr. Colon. 1618.



says, that the Apostle “ in the beginning declared  
 “ how great and infinite is the Almighty greatness  
 “ of Christ, that He might instruct us, that *hope is*  
 “ *only to be placed in Him*; because all things are  
 “ his, and because nothing can exist without Him,  
 “ neither in heaven nor in earth. ‘ For He is  
 “ before all things, and by Him all things consist,  
 “ because He hath the preeminence in all things ;’  
 “ so that if any one thinks that he ought to be  
 “ *devoted* to any of the Angels, or elements, or  
 “ powers, let him know that he is in error<sup>a</sup>.”  
 This was the language of the fourth century. *Now*  
 we hear of nothing but “ devotion to the Virgin  
 “ and the Saints”—“ trust” and “ hope” in their  
 power. What was impious in the fourth century,  
 is now obtruded upon us as Catholic and laudable.

So strictly did the Catholic Church in primitive  
 times adhere to the Apostolic tradition, that in the  
 Eucharist, prayer was not even to be directed to  
 the second or third Persons of the blessed Trinity.  
 The third Council of Carthage, at which St.  
 Augustine was present, decreed, that “ At the  
 “ Altar *prayer should always be directed to the*  
 “ *Father*, and whatever prayers are composed by  
 “ any one, he may not use till he has submitted  
 “ them to the examination of the more learned  
 “ brethren<sup>b</sup>.” Thus jealous was the Catholic

<sup>a</sup> Hilar. in Coloss. i. p. 266, Ambrosii Opera, t. ii. pars ii. ed. Ben.

<sup>b</sup> Concil. Carthag. iii. c. xxiii. Labbæi Concilia, t. ii. col. 1170.

Church of the prerogatives of the Father, to whom our Lord had directed us to address our prayers in His name. “ Verily, verily, I say unto you, “ Whatsoever ye shall ask *the Father* in my name, “ He will give it you. . . . . At that day ye shall “ ask in my name ; and I say not unto you, that I “ will pray the Father for you ; for the Father “ Himself loveth you.” (John xvi. 24, 26, 27.) And if our prayers are *generally* to be directed to the Father, instead of to the Son or the Holy Spirit—if even in the Trinity itself, where there is the *same Godhead* in three Persons, the priority of the Father is to be practically recognised in our worship ; how much greater becomes the sin of those who worship and pray to mere creatures, as they would to the Supreme Fountain and First Principle of all things.

The practice of Romanists in praying to Angels was first invented by a sect in the fourth century, who for the purpose of exercising this unlawful worship, held private meetings separate from those of the Catholic Church, in which it was not permitted. The Council of Laodicea, the decrees of which were received and approved by the whole Church, condemned this sect in the following terms: “ Christians ought not to forsake the “ Church of God, and depart, and *call on angels*, “ and make meetings ; which are forbidden. If “ any one therefore be found giving himself to “ this hidden *idolatry*, *Let him be Anathema*,

“ because he hath left our Lord Jesus Christ the “ Son of God, and hath betaken himself to “ *idolatry*.” Prayers to Angels are forbidden in this decree, but the same principle applies equally to all prayers to created beings. Prayers to Angels and Saints were therefore in the judgment of the Catholic Church of the fourth century, *idolatrous*; and yet you adopt and defend those prayers without any scruple.

The Adoration of the Virgin was also introduced about the same time, and was regarded as a *heresy* by the Catholic Church. It commenced in Arabia about A. D. 373, and seems to have given rise to an opposite heresy, that of the Antidicomarians, who spoke irreverently of the blessed Virgin. We learn that the sinful and misguided persons who adopted this new worship, made offerings of cakes to the Virgin at particular times of the year, from which they were called Collyridians, (a word which signified the nature of their offering.) There is no evidence that they separated from the Church or its worship, or refused to worship God, or regarded the Virgin as equal to God. They are not accused of this by any writer. They, however, offered external worship to the Virgin, and were therefore

<sup>c</sup> Concil. Laodicen. Can. xxxv. Beveregii Pandect. Canon. t. i. p. 468. This heresy is referred to by Epiphanius, *Hæres.* lx. Oper. t. ii. p. 505. and by St. Augustine, *Lib. de Hæres. n. xxxix. t. viii. p. 11. Oper. ed. Ben. ;* and it seems to have become extinct in a short time.

regarded as heretics. St. Epiphanius has refuted this heresy, and at the same time furnished the strongest arguments against Romanists, in a work from which the following extracts are made.—

“ The body of Mary was holy indeed, but she  
 “ was not God. She was a Virgin and honoured,  
 “ but not proposed to us *to be worshipped*, but as  
 “ worshipping Him who, born of her flesh, had  
 “ descended from Heaven and from his Father’s  
 “ bosom. Therefore the Gospel warned us before-  
 “ hand, in which Christ thus speaketh, ‘ What  
 “ have I to do with thee, *woman*? my hour is not  
 “ yet come,’ in order that from this expression,  
 “ ‘ What have I to do with thee, woman?’ none  
 “ might think the holy Virgin more excellent (in  
 “ nature) . . . none might *by excessively admiring*  
 “ the Saint, fall into this folly of *heresy*<sup>d</sup>. Which  
 “ of the prophets ever permitted a man to be  
 “ worshipped, not to speak of a *woman*<sup>e</sup>? Let  
 “ Mary be in *honour*, but let Father, Son, and  
 “ Holy Spirit be *worshipped*: let no one worship  
 “ Mary. That service is *not enjoined* by God ; I say  
 “ not to a woman, but even to a man. Not even  
 “ the Angels are worthy of such honours. . . . Let  
 “ no one taste of that error concerning the holy  
 “ Mary, for although the tree be beautiful, it is  
 “ not good for food ; and although Mary is most  
 “ excellent, and holy, and worthy of honour, yet

<sup>d</sup> Epiphani. Hæres. lxxix. t. ii. Oper. p. 1061.

<sup>e</sup> p. 1062.

“ she is *not to be worshipped*. . . . . Let such  
 “ women (as worship her) be silenced by Jeremiah,  
 “ and no longer disturb the world. Let them not  
 “ say, ‘ *We honour the Queen of Heaven*<sup>f</sup>.’ Let  
 “ Mary be in honour. Let the Lord be worship-  
 “ ped. For the righteous afford to no one an  
 “ occasion of error<sup>g</sup>. ”

To speak of the blessed Virgin as *a woman*, in the way which St. Epiphanius here does, would be regarded by many Romanists as little less than blasphemous. If indeed those magnificent titles which they bestow on her (amongst which is that very one of “ Queen of Heaven,” here reprehended by St. Epiphanius) be rightly and piously applied, it must be disrespectful to speak of her as “ a woman.”

III. “ Is it necessary to ask for the intercession  
 “ of Saints and Angels with God, or is it better to  
 “ approach the throne of God with our own  
 “ prayers, relying with confidence on the inter-  
 “ cession of the Great High Priest Jesus Christ ? ”

Our belief is in this case also confirmed by the voice of Catholic tradition, and the practice and opinions of Romanists approximate to those of the heathen and heretics, against whom the holy Fathers contended.

You have quoted (p. 64.) Valerian, Bishop of Cemela, A.D. 450, as urging the necessity of

<sup>f</sup> p. 1062.

<sup>g</sup> p. 1066.



having recourse to the Saints, because “it is the  
 “ only way to secure the favour of God.” “What  
 “ place of pardon will there be,” he says, “if you  
 “ know not how to *entreat the friends of the king?*”  
 I have not examined into the genuineness of this  
 piece—but admitting it to be genuine, I maintain,  
 that the doctrine here advanced was not that of the  
 Catholic Church.

The heathen, as we learn from the example of  
 Celsus, defended their worship and prayers addressed  
 to Angels or Spirits, by representing that we ought  
 to put our trust in them because they were ministers  
 of God. To this Origen replies: “Away with the  
 “ advice of Celsus, saying that we should pray to  
 “ Angels, and let it not be heard for a moment.  
 “ For *we must pray to God alone* who is above all,  
 “ and we must pray to the only-begotten Word of  
 “ God, ‘the first-born of all creatures,’ and we  
 “ must entreat Him, *as a high-priest, to offer up our*  
 “ *prayers to his God and our God*”<sup>b</sup>. We must  
 “ endeavour to please God *alone*, who is above all  
 “ things, and labour to have Him propitious to us,  
 “ procuring His good will by godliness and all  
 “ kinds of virtue. And if Celsus will yet have us  
 “ to procure *the good will of any others* after Him  
 “ that is God over all . . . having God, favourable  
 “ to us, who is over all, it follows that we shall  
 “ have all His friends both Angels and Spirits

<sup>b</sup> Origen. cont. Celsum, l. viii. p. 760. t. i. Oper. ed. Benedict.



“ loving unto us<sup>i</sup>. To whom we offer our first-fruits, to Him also do we send our prayers, having a great High Priest that is entered into the heavens. . . . But if we have a desire towards a *multitude* [of Saints, Angels, &c.] whom we wish to be favourable unto us, we learn that ‘ ‘ thousand thousands stand by Him,’ &c. . . . who labour together for the salvation of those who *call upon God, and pray lawfully*<sup>k</sup>.’ ”

I have already quoted the answer of Hilary the Deacon to the argument for the necessity of appealing to creatures in order to propitiate God. St. John Chrysostom speaks still more distinctly. “ It is often impossible to present our gift immediately unto the masters themselves, and to converse with them, but it is necessary first to obtain the favour of their ministers and stewards . . . . *But with God it is not so, for there is no need of intercessors for the petitioners, nor is He so ready to give a gracious answer, being entreated by others, as by our own selves praying unto Him*<sup>l</sup>. Amongst men . . . . it is required that he should flatter all those that are about the Prince . . . . but here there is no need of any thing save of a watchful mind only, and there is nothing that hindereth us from being near to God<sup>m</sup>. ” “ *God does most when we do not ask of others.* As a kind friend,

<sup>i</sup> P. 789.

<sup>k</sup> P. 766.

<sup>l</sup> Cited by Damascenus, *Sacra Parallela*, t. ii. Oper. p. 466.

<sup>m</sup> Chrysost. in *Psal.* iv. t. v. p. 8. ed. Benedict.

“ *he blameth us most, as not having courage to trust*  
 “ *in his love, when we entreat others to pray to Him*  
 “ *for us*”. We do not therefore so pacify Him  
 “ when we entreat Him by others, as when we do  
 “ it by our own selves<sup>o</sup>.” Damascenus, in the  
 eighth century, adopts these sentiments. “ Mark  
 “ the philosophy of the woman of Canaan. She  
 “ entreats not James, she beseeches not John,  
 “ neither does she come to Peter, but broke through  
 “ the whole company. I have no need of a  
 “ mediator, but taking repentance as my spokes-  
 “ man, I come to the Fountain-head itself. For  
 “ this cause did He descend, for this cause did He  
 “ take flesh, that I might have the boldness to  
 “ speak unto Him. . . . I have no need of a  
 “ mediator: Have mercy on me<sup>p</sup>.” This is even  
 the language of Theophylact, Metropolitan of  
 Bulgaria in the *eleventh* century. Speaking of the  
 woman of Canaan: “ Observe,” he says, “ that  
 “ although the Saints pray for us as the Apostles  
 “ did for her, yet *we praying for ourselves, prevail*  
 “ *much more*<sup>q</sup>.” These authorities are sufficient to  
 shew that the ancient Church did not believe it  
 necessary to use the Saints as mediators with God,  
 and that they held it much safer and more pious to  
 approach God with our own prayers, confiding in  
 the intercession of Jesus Christ.

<sup>o</sup> Hom. xxxvi. in Act. Apost. t. ix. p. 278.

<sup>p</sup> Expos. in Ps. iv t. v. p. 9.

<sup>p</sup> Cited by Damascenus, Oper. t. ii. p. 467.

<sup>q</sup> Theophylact. Comment. in Matt. c. xv. p. 89. ed. Paris, 1631.

IV. “ Is it lawful to unite the name of God with  
 “ that of His creatures in prayer, and to offer the  
 “ same acts of homage to both at the same time?”

In proof of the unlawfulness of this practice, I shall only adduce the language of the great Athanasius. “ *No one,*” he says, “ would pray to  
 “ receive any thing from the *Father and the Angels,*  
 “ or from *any of the other creatures.* Nor would  
 “ any one say, ‘ God and the Angel give thee.’”  
 In reply to the objection derived from Jacob’s language, Gen. xlviii. 15, 16. “ The God which  
 “ fed me from my youth . . . . the Angel which  
 “ delivered me, &c.” Athanasius says, “ He *did*  
 “ not couple one of the created beings, and by nature  
 “ Angels, with God who created them . . . but in  
 “ saying, ‘ which delivered me from all evils,’ he  
 “ shewed that it was not any of the created Angels,  
 “ but *the Word of God,* whom he coupled with  
 “ God and prayed unto<sup>r</sup>.” I need not produce  
 any further evidence. Compare this with your indulgenced prayer, “ Jesus, *Joseph, and Mary,*  
 “ assist me in my last agony.”

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I have produced but a small portion of the evidence which may be brought from Christian Antiquity in refutation of your doctrines and practice on this subject. What has been said, however, will I trust be sufficient for the vindication of the

<sup>r</sup> Athanasii Orat. iii. cont. Arianos, t. i. p. 566.

early Fathers from the imputations of superstition and idolatry which your pamphlet tends to fix upon them. Their doctrines stand out in bold relief, against the heathenish corruptions which Romanism sanctions and defends.

§. 6. *Additional proofs of Romish Idolatry and Superstition.*

We have now sufficiently seen what the doctrine of the Catholic Fathers is on the subject of the worship of creatures. Let us contrast it with the doctrines and practice of Romanism. I can only afford space for a very few citations from your popular books of devotion, but they will afford a fair specimen of the remainder.

Your admired saint Alphonsus de Liguori shall speak first.

“ From the moment that Mary consented to become the Mother of God,” says St. Bernardine of Sienna, “ she merited to receive *sovereignty over all creatures.*” “ Mary and Jesus having but one and the same flesh,” says St. Arnand, abbot, “ why should not the Mother enjoy, *conjointly with the Son*, the honours of royalty.” Mary is then *Queen of the Universe*, since Jesus is its King: thus, as St. Bernardine again observes, “ As many creatures as obey God, so many obey the glorious Virgin \*.” “ I am,” said she, to St. Bridget, “ the Queen of heaven

\* The Glories of Mary, Mother of God, translated from the Italian of Saint Alphonsus Liguori by a Catholic Priest. Third Edition, Dublin, Coyne, 1837.

and Mother of Mercy"—I am "the joy of the just, and the gate through which sinners go to God." (p. 22.) "*Queen of heaven and earth!* Mother of God! my Sovereign mistress! I present myself before you as a poor mendicant before a mighty Queen. (p. 29.) No grace, no pardon, emanates from the throne of the King of kings without passing through the hands of Mary, according to St. Bernard. The plenitude of Grace is found in Jesus Christ as the head, whence it flows to Mary, who communicates it to all his members. (p. 121.) No doubt, Jesus the Man-God, alone sufficed to effect our redemption; but it was more convenient that both sexes having concurred to our ruin, both should conspire to save us. Albertus Magnus styles Mary 'the coadjutrix of our redemption!'" (p. 128.) ALL IS SUBJECT TO MARY'S EMPIRE, EVEN GOD HIMSELF! . . . . Jesus has rendered Mary *omnipotent*: the one is omnipotent by nature, *the other is omnipotent by grace*. (p. 138.) St. Germanus says to Mary, 'You, O holy Virgin, *have over God the authority of a mother*, and hence you obtain pardon for the most obdurate sinners.' (p. 141.) It is impossible that a true servant of Mary should be damned. (p. 165.) 'My soul,' says the blessed Eric Suzon, 'is in the hands of Mary, so if the Judge wishes to condemn me, the sentence must pass through this clement Queen, and she well knows how to prevent its execution. (p. 171.) O Jesus! O Mary! may your names live in my heart . . . O Mary! my Mother! when my last hour shall come, when my soul shall be at the eve of its departure from the world, grant I beseech you, that my last words may be, Jesus, Mary, I love you. Jesus, Mary, I give you my heart and my soul. Amen.'" (p. 205.)

My next extracts shall be from "the New



“ Month of Mary,” published last year with the formal approbation of authority <sup>t</sup>.

“ Thou art *the only hope of sinners*. Through thee do we hope for pardon of our sins; and in thee, O most blessed Lady, is the expectation of our rewards. (p. 42.) Recite the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity, to-day, in honour of Mary, and make this one of the devotions which you will resolve to practise in her honour. (p. 121.) In all the infirmities of the body, and all the maladies of the soul, be thou, O Mary, my refuge and my relief. Numberless are the sick who through thee have recovered health. Relying on thy power and goodness, I fly to thee, and implore thee to heal my infirmities, and obtain for me perfect health of body and of soul, that I may be the better able to serve *thee* and *thy Divine Son*. (p. 146.) O heavenly Queen, thou dost excel the highest of the Angelic host in merit, in grace, and in holiness. All heavenly spirits bow down before thee, and praise and glorify thee.” (p. 168.)

The next extracts shall be made from “ Devotion to the holy Angels from the French of Boudon. “ Dublin, 1837.”

“ The Virgin Mary ‘ being the august Empress of Paradise,’ the Angels are her subjects, and consider it a great honour to be obedient to her laws. (p. 44.) It is most useful to perform a Novena in honour of the Angels.

<sup>t</sup> The New Month of Mary, principally designed for the Month of May, by the Very Rev. P. R. Kenrick, Dolman, London, 1841. Approved, April 25, 1841, by “ F. P. Kenrick, Bp. Arath. and Coadj. of Bp. Philadelphia.”



..... It may be as follows; the first day honour the Angels of the last choir by some prayer—nine *Gloria Patris* for example—and ask them for the grace or favour you want; and thus ascend to all the choirs successively. .... On the first day ask the Angels to obtain for you a lively faith; on the second, beg of the Archangels holy zeal; on the third, honour the Principalities, and beg the extinction of the reign of sin. (p. 62.) Tuesday in each week . . . should be sacred to the Angelic devotion. (p. 62.) If we would be truly devout to the Angels, we should once for all take the resolution of avoiding deliberate faults and imperfections, of searching out and overcoming our predominant passion . . . Endeavour every day to *sacrifice* some inclination of yours in honour of the Angels. (p. 69.) It was proposed to form an Association for the purpose [of worshipping the Angels], each member of which would successively honour the Angels in the name of the rest—and thus a *continual homage* would be rendered to these blessed Spirits. (p. 71.) [The Pope granted *Indulgences* in favour of this Association, p. 71.] Some persons devout to the holy Angels . . . wished to dedicate to these holy Spirits *a whole month*—that of October. They during that period perform the following practices &c. . . . O, all ye holy Angels . . . I your unworthy servant, present and offer you all the practices of this month, consecrated to you, not only as a means of obtaining, (*here specify your request,*) but also as a reparation for my past ingratitude, and that of all men. (p. 75.) [After this follow, ‘The Little Office of the Holy Angels; Hymns to the Angels, Litany of the Saints who have been specially favoured by the Angels; Beads of the holy Angels; Litany of the holy Angels; Litany of the Angel Guardian,’ &c.]”

I extract the following from “ Reflections on the  
 “ prerogatives, power, and protection of Saint  
 “ Joseph . . . . with special devotions to that most  
 “ glorious Patriarch. London, 1825.”

“ He must be looked on as his (Jesus’) legitimate parent, and entitled in all things to the right of paternity, except that of generation, which, according to Rupertus Abbas, the eternal Father supplied, by infusing into the husband of Mary a paternal love for her Son Jesus. (p. 6.) The illuminated St. Theresa of Jesus . . . (said,) I have seen clearly, that this *Father and Lord of mine*, St. Joseph, hath drawn me, as well out of this necessity, being crippled with sickness, as out of others greater, when there was question of honour and loss of my soul. (p. 37.) This glorious Saint brings also whole provinces and nations to the Catholic faith. New France owns him as the propagator of His gospel whose legal parent he was. (p. 64.) The universal practice of honouring our holy Patriarch, is to recite his little office, his litanies, hymn, and prayer, either *daily* or for a set time. (p. 72.) There are several other ways of honouring him, as to say the beads, to wear rings with his name engraved . . . . others have on their rings Jesus, Maria, Joseph. (p. 85.) O holy Joseph . . . I N. N. in the presence of Jesus and Mary, do from this moment choose you for my *Lord and Master*. (p. 89.) [After this follows the office of St. Joseph, or worship of him *seven times in the day*, The Litany of St. Joseph, a Hymn in his honour, Beads of St. Joseph, Seven Prayers to St. Joseph in honour of his seven dolours, Eight Meditations on his Life.]”

The following extracts are taken from “ The  
 “ imitation of the blessed Virgin, composed on the

“ plan of *the imitation of Christ*. From the French.  
 “ Dublin, Coyne, 1836.”

“ Thou art truly become *the Queen of the world, as well as the Queen of Heaven* . . . O Virgin Mother, the highest in grace and perfection among the Angels, deserves only to rank among thy servants; so great is the distance between him and thee. (p. 268.) I comprehend that in that quality (Mother of Jesus) thou hast a sort of right over all the treasures of grace . . . Who can comprehend the elevation of thy dignity? All is so great and eminent in the Mother of God, that the Seraphims themselves can only admire it. (p. 269.) At the sight of thy greatness and sublime elevation, I am seized with religious fear and respect, which, as it were, annihilates me at thy feet. (p. 270.) He (God) has given her a sort of superintendence over His treasures, and it is through her that He is pleased to distribute them to us.” (p. 289.)

I quote the following from “ *The glories of Saint Joseph*, chiefly taken from the French of Rev. “ Father Paul Barrie. Dublin, 1835.”

“ As God the Son is the Redeemer of mankind, so St. Joseph is his coadjutor in this great work, since he employs all his cares . . . to gain wherewithal to nourish and maintain our merciful Redeemer. Lastly, as the Holy Ghost is the spouse of Mary the Mother of God, so St. Joseph is also her spouse. What, therefore, can be a greater subject of jealousy to the Angels than this? (p. 25.) The learned and devout Gerson says, that if the first rank or hierarchy in heaven is that of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; so the second is this of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; and that all other Saints are of a lower rank, and of a

different hierarchy. These other great Saints hold, indeed, the first place in their rank and hierarchy, according to the ordinary law of love ; but not in that of the order of the Hypostatical union, and in the mystery of the Incarnation, wherein those are only comprised, who most nearly relate to Jesus and Mary: namely, St. Joseph, who completes this created Trinity." (p. 39, 40.)

The following passages are extracted from "A Short Treatise on the Antiquity, &c. of the Confraternity of our blessed Lady of Mount Carmel. Dublin, 1838."

"Another benefit or privilege of this Confraternity of the Scapular, is contained in these words: he that dieth invested with this habit *shall not suffer eternal fire*: which is as much as to say, that the Scapular is a great help in order to obtain eternal felicity. (p. 43.) St. Anselm saith, There is no doubt but the blessed Virgin Mary, by maternal right, is *with Christ, president of heaven and earth*. St. John Damascene saith, it is fitting and convenient that Mary should possess what is her Son's. . . . . She being really Mother of the Word incarnated, there is in all propriety due to her a certain power; or as others say, *a dominion over all things*, as well spiritual as temporal, to which the authority of her Son doth extend itself. So that she had by natural right of maternity, *a power almost like that of her Son*. (p. 49.) Purify my heart, O immaculate Virgin, from every sin, . . . . purge this soul of its affection for earthly and sinful goods, and raise it to the love of celestial and heavenly blessings." (p. 74.)

I need not carry this proof any further. The passages which I have selected are taken almost at

random from a few of your books of popular devotion, and furnish but an imperfect specimen of the real state of religious worship amongst Romanists. I am obliged to refrain from citing similar passages from numbers of books now lying before me. I cannot afford space for describing the multiplicity of your acts of worship and adoration to the Virgin, the Saints, and Angels—The special months devoted to their daily worship—The repetition of hymns, prayers, and litanies to them *seven times in the day*—The *vows* made to them—The Eucharist offered *to their honour*—Acts of faith, hope, and charity, the reception of the holy Eucharist, almsgiving, all the works of religion done to *please them*—Offerings of gifts to them—Confraternities for the purpose of worshipping them, supported by Papal Indulgences—Confession made to them *conjointly with God*—The ascription of all the titles and prerogatives of the Creator to his creatures. How deplorable, how awful, is this scene of superstition and idolatry ! And how fearful a contrast does it present to the religion of Scripture and of Antiquity ! Can nothing awaken the conscience of Romanists to a sense of what is due to God ?

I can only adduce one more passage in illustration of your religious system. It is taken from the writings of Alphonsus de Liguori, your favourite Saint, and describes the mode in which those who are in their last agony are to be aided by the priest.



“ When the sick man comes to his agony, let the Priest employ the usual arms of the Church in his assistance. 1. Let him often *sprinkle him with blessed water*, especially if he is troubled by diabolical temptations. . . . 2. Let him fortify him *with the sign of the cross*, and bless him, saying, ‘ God the Father who created thee bless thee, &c.’ . . . . 3. Let him frequently give him *the image of our Saviour and of Mary to kiss*. 4. Let him take care that the sick person gains *all the Indulgences that he can*, and especially receives benediction in the article of death, with plenary indulgence granted by Benedict XIV. . . . . 5. Let him suggest some sentiment of grief, conformity, hope in the passion of God *and the intercession of S. Mary*. . . . 6. Let him endeavour that the names of Jesus *and Mary* be very frequently invoked, at least mentally, and the prayer, ‘ *Mary, mother of grace*,’ be said. 7. In the last agony let him cause the bystanders to say *many litanies of the Virgin Mary* for the sick man. It is desirable to procure the bell of the agony to be rung. . . . 8. As the time of expiring draws near, let the Priest with a mournful voice and bended knees recite the accustomed prayers of the Church, ‘ Go forth, &c.’ . . . 9. (Directions as to handling the sick person.) 10. When he is near death, let him give him *a blessed candle*, and thus profess that he dies in the faith. 11. While he is yet sensible, it will be advisable to give him Absolution *frequently*, after a short reconciliation. . . . . Let him admonish him *often to call on the names of Jesus and Mary*”.

“ When the sick man is near expiring, the [following] acts should be recited *without pausing and in a loud voice* [by the Priest].

<sup>u</sup> Ligorio, Theologia Moralis, t. ix. p. 175. (Praxis Confessarii, n. 276.)



“ Lord Jesu, receive my spirit. My God, help me, permit me to come and love thee for ever. My Jesus, my Love, I love thee. I repent. I wish that I had never offended thee ! *O Mary, my hope*, help me, pray for me to Jesus. My Jesus, for thy passion save me. I love thee ! *Mary, my mother*, in this hour help me. *St. Joseph*, help me. *Archangel Michael*, defend me. *Guardian Angel*, guard me. *Saint N.* (here let the principal protector of the sick man be named) commend me to Jesus Christ. *Saints of God*, intercede for me. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. *Jesus and Mary*, I give my heart and my soul to you<sup>x</sup> !”

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I should only injure the effect of this most awful scene by offering any comments : I leave it to the reflections of the Reader. May the last hours of those he loves have other consolations—and *peace*.

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On the remainder of your Pamphlet I can at present only make one or two remarks<sup>y</sup>. The

<sup>x</sup> Ib. p. 178, 179.

<sup>y</sup> I would refer an anonymous Correspondent to my Treatise on the Church, Part ii. c. xi. objections x. and xi. It can never, under any circumstances, be lawful to profess what is false or deny what is true. The *wish* for union may however exist ; and may be lawful, even where great corruptions are visible, provided there is no intention of uniting in those corruptions, but rather an intention of protesting against them.

passages which you have adduced (p. 79, 80.) in support of the doctrine of Purgatory do not relate to it. They shall be examined in my next Letter. I shall also have an opportunity of considering your remarks on Indulgences. I did not mean to deny your veracity as you suppose, (p. 84,) in calling for *sufficient evidence* of a fact, and implying that “others might have been able to “give a somewhat different account.” I merely meant, that what you did not think superstitious might have appeared in a widely different point of view to others. With reference to your observation (p. 4.) that my denial of your ordination was irrelevant, I must say that it was *highly relevant* in a controversy *between you and me*; because, had I admitted your assumed title of bishop, it would have been necessary to address you in a tone of great respect. You have hinted that my style is uncourteous: I confess that I have not treated you with any ceremony, because I do not recognise Romish ordinations in these countries<sup>z</sup>, and am unwilling to place them on a level with those of the Catholic Church in England. If there has been any apparent uncourteousness in the tone of these Letters, it has not, I assure you, arisen from any desire to inflict pain; for to yourself personally, I can have no feeling but

<sup>z</sup> See Treatise on the Church of Christ, Part vi. chap. xi; Episcopacy Defended against Wiseman, Sect. xviii.

that of good-will. It is intended to apply to you only in your *official capacity*, as Vicar Apostolic and pretended bishop.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PALMER.

*Oxford, June 8, 1841.*

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NOTE.

A layman of the Romish persuasion, calling himself VERAX, has published a Letter to me on the worship of the Virgin Mary, in which the Fathers are quoted copiously in justification of the prayers to which attention was drawn in my First Letter. This gentleman has prevented me from noticing his proofs more particularly, by omitting to annex references to his quotations. I observe, however, that many of them are derived from *spurious* productions, and in particular, a long passage purporting to be from S. Augustine (Sermo 18, de Sanctis), on which this writer, and Mr. Ambrose Phillips in his recent pamphlet, have rested the whole strength of their cause. Verax, in his Appendix, puts questions and difficulties to me, which only shew his entire ignorance of the Anglo-Catholic Theology of the present day.

ERRATUM.

Page 34, line 24. *for* " Rachel through [her child] Jacob worshipped Joseph"  
*read* " Rachel through Jacob worshipped [her child] Joseph"

A  
SIXTH LETTER

TO

N. WISEMAN, D.D.

ON THE

DOCTRINE OF PURGATORY.

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BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.

OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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OXFORD,  
JOHN HENRY PARKER;  
J. G. F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.  
1841.





A

## SIXTH LETTER,

8c.

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### § 1. *Introduction.*

SIR,

IN my preceding Letters your Controversial Lectures were frequently referred to for statements and proofs of Romish doctrines, not with any particular view of calling on you for a defence of those Lectures, but merely because they contain a recent and tolerably authentic exposition of Romish tenets. In future, however, a more sparing use shall be made of your productions, since it appears from the conclusion of your "Remarks" on my first Letter, that you "have, on principle, declined answering several attacks on your Controversial Lectures; and that it will require particular reasons to induce you to alter your past course." I beg you distinctly to understand, that it has not been my object to "attack your Controversial Lectures," but to contend against the system of which they furnish a convenient expo-

sition. This explanation will, I trust, have the effect of enabling you, without any compromise of "principle," to continue your defence of principles and practices, in vindication of which you so eagerly rushed forward, when you imagined that they had been misrepresented by Mr. Newman.

The course of these Letters now brings us to consider the doctrine of PURGATORY. And here, Sir, I am ready to admit, that if the description given by Romish controversialists of their belief on this point, did really and fairly represent the doctrines which are currently received amongst you, we might be in some degree inclined to wonder at the opposition which has been made to the doctrine of Purgatory. It is the uniform practice of your modern writers to *keep out of view* all those offensive doctrines which are universally received amongst Romanists, although they have not been actually and formally defined by the Council of Trent; and we are thus to be persuaded, that the Roman Churches are in no degree responsible for such doctrines—that they are the mere private opinions of individuals—that they may be disputed or denied at pleasure; while at the same time, those very doctrines are sedulously inculcated on your own people, universally believed and approved; and their denial by any member of your Communion, would cause the highest scandal. They are never, in fact, opposed by any Romanists, without bringing down on them the imputation of Jansenism, or of some other heresy; and if your

opponents are ever able to bring it to the test whether you really do or do not hold them, we find that they are immediately defended with the utmost pertinacity.

Of this you have yourself afforded an example in the present controversy. Romanists are continually assuring us, that they only invoke the Saints to "*pray for us*" to God, and that they are, therefore, most unjustly accused of idolatrous practices. I shewed, that it is an *authorized* practice in your Communion, to pray to the Saints in the very terms in which God is addressed ; to offer them Divine honours ; to regard them as fountains of grace ; to place religious trust and confidence in them ; to set them, in every respect, on a level with God. You had repudiated all such imputations ; but when they were actually brought home to your Communion, you at once stepped forward to express your approbation of all the most obnoxious expressions and practices that had been adduced, and to justify them by still more objectionable passages from spurious and forged writings.

The same line of proceeding has been followed by your controversialists with reference to the doctrine now before us. The obnoxious doctrines connected with Purgatory are never obtruded on us : they are studiously kept out of view : and our attention is directed only to the points which have been formally defined by the Council of Trent. Thus Dr. Milner remarks, that "all which is necessary to be believed

by Romanists on this subject, is contained in the following brief declaration of the Council of Trent : ‘There is a Purgatory, and the souls detained there are helped by the prayers of the faithful, and particularly by the acceptable sacrifice of the altar<sup>a</sup>.’” M. Bouvier, Bishop of Mans, observes, that these “two points only have been defined by the Church as matters of Catholic faith,” and that “other matters are left free to the discussion of theologians<sup>b</sup>.” Perrone again, as cited by you in your Letter to Mr. Newman, (p. 15), makes nearly the same statement; and adds, that “every thing relating to the place, duration, and quality of the pains of Purgatory, does not pertain to the Catholic faith,” &c. “The Faith of Catholics,” by the Romish priests Berington and Kirk, states, that all such questions are “superfluous and impertinent as to faith.” (2nd Ed. p. 355.)

If, Sir, the doctrine of Purgatory went no further than this, I believe there would not be any great repugnance to it. If to assert that “there is a Purgatory, and that the souls detained there are helped by our prayers,” be sufficient, we need not have any further difference on this point. We admit “a Purgatory” just as much as you do, that is to say, a Purgatory in this *present life*; and we believe “that the souls detained there are helped by the prayers of the faithful.” Will this satisfy you?

<sup>a</sup> End of Controv. Lett. xliii.

<sup>b</sup> Tractatus de Pœnitentia, p. 285.

Oh no! You will be ready to pronounce such a doctrine mere *heresy*. It is therefore evident, that your doctrine goes beyond the mere wording of the decree of Trent, or of the Creed of Pius V. Let us, then, ascertain what the doctrine of Romanists really is.

In my first Letter (p. 36) I enquired, in reference to your quotation from Perrone, which was intended to shew that Romanists are at *liberty* to speculate on the nature of Purgatory, whether he does not add to his statement, “that the doctrine of a purging material fire is the general and most probable opinion of theologians?;” and I also requested you to produce the entire passage. With this request you have declined to comply<sup>c</sup>; and I shall therefore copy what immediately follows your quotation, in order that we may be able to see how far Romanists are at liberty to speculate on points involved in the doctrine of Purgatory, though not actually comprised in the definition of the Council of Trent.

Having stated then, that “matters relating to the place, duration, and quality of pains in Purgatory do not pertain to the Catholic faith,” Perrone proceeds thus:

“We are not ignorant, that there are *some* of those things which we have said do not pertain to *faith*, which, *although they be not defined, cannot be rejected* without a mark of *temerity*; since not only the *common doctrine of theologians* concerning them,

<sup>c</sup> Remarks, &c., p. 78.

(from which it is unlawful for any discreet Catholic to depart without most weighty reason,) is sufficiently known; but also the *sense of the Church herself*, especially with reference to THE SEVERITY OF THE PUNISHMENTS WITH WHICH SOULS ARE TORTURED IN PURGATORY<sup>d</sup>.”

This passage throws considerable light on the subject. It appears that although Perrone does not *expressly* state that the doctrine of a material purging fire is most commonly received by theologians, he does inform us, that there are various points, not put before us by Romish Controversialists, which cannot be rejected by Romanists, without rendering themselves liable to *formal condemnation* by the authorities of their Communion; for the “common doctrine of theologians,” and “the sense of the Church herself” are the ordinary grounds for Papal and Episcopal censures. Let us next endeavour to ascertain, what points may be considered to have the general sanction of theologians, and to represent the sense of the Roman Church.

<sup>d</sup> Haud ignoramus ex his, quæ diximus ad fidem minime spectare, aliqua esse, quæ quamvis definita non sint, absque temeritatis nota rejici non posse, quum satis innotescat circa ea non solum communis theologorum doctrina, a qua cordato Catholico absque gravissima causa recedere nefas est, sed insuper ipsius ecclesiæ sensus, præsertim circà pœnarum acerbitem, quibus animæ in Purgatorio cruciantur.—Perrone, Theologia, t. iii. p. 321, ed. Rom. 1836.



§ 2. *Doctrine of Purgatory stated and refuted.*

1. In the first place then, it is the doctrine of the Roman Church and of all her theologians, that the souls detained in Purgatory suffer dreadful tortures from fire, as well as in many other ways, and that their punishment differs from that of hell only in duration, the one being temporal, the other eternal. Bouvier Bishop of Mans writes in the following terms: "*All agree that there is a twofold punishment in Purgatory, one of 'loss,' which is the delay of the beatific vision; and the other of 'sense.'*" This, according to the Greeks, is caused by severe labours and pains: but *the constant belief of the Latins* is, that there is in Purgatory a material fire *like the fire of hell*; and therefore that the Church, in praying for the souls of the faithful, does not ask merely for 'a place of light and peace,' but for a place 'of cooling,' i. e. against the ardour of the fire<sup>e</sup>." "*It is certain,*" says Cardinal Bellarmine, "that in Purgatory, *as also in hell*, is a punishment of fire, whether that fire be understood properly or metaphorically<sup>f</sup>." In another place he observes that the temporal punishment to be endured after the remission of sin, "*is the very same sensible punishment* which the sinner ought to have suffered in hell, with the exception of its *eternity*<sup>g</sup>." Dens

<sup>e</sup> Bouvier, de Pœnitentia, p. 285.

<sup>f</sup> Bellarminus de Purgatorio, lib. ii. c. x.

<sup>g</sup> Bellarminus de Pœnitentia, lib. iv. c. i.

teaches that the pains of Purgatory are the same as those of hell<sup>h</sup>. Delahogue says that “theologians commonly teach” that the souls in Purgatory “are confined in some dark prison, and tortured by some fire<sup>i</sup>.” Natalis Alexander having observed that “it is not a dogma of *faith* that the fire of Purgatory is real and corporeal,” says, “I reply thirdly, that *according to the more probable opinion* RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH, the fire of Purgatory is real and corporeal, and nevertheless tortures incorporeal souls<sup>k</sup>.” In fine, Pope Benedict XIV. fully explains to us the doctrine of the Roman Church, as to the tortures suffered in Purgatory.

He remarks on a certain part of the Canon of the Mass, that the Priest therein prays, “for all those who are expiating in the *fire of Purgatory*; and requests for them all ‘a place of cooling,’ which refers to that *fire in which they are burning*; ‘a place of light,’ which relates to that *darkness* in which they are; ‘a place of repose,’ which regards that *anxiety of mind* with which they are struggling; by which threefold species of punishments those *miserable souls* are expiated by the DIVINE JUSTICE<sup>l</sup>.”

In explaining a disputed passage in a Mass for the dead, the same Pontiff says: “But that we may

<sup>h</sup> Dens, Theologia, t. vi. p. 40.

<sup>i</sup> Delahogue, de Pœnitentia, p. 304.

<sup>k</sup> Natalis Alex. Dissert. xlv. in Sæc. iv.

<sup>l</sup> Benedict. xiv. De Sacrificio Missæ, p. 128. ed. Ferrariæ, 1767.

determine something, it seems that we should say that the Church, in that anthem or offertory in Masses for the dead, means the punishments of *Purgatory*; and calls *Purgatory* HELL, BECAUSE THERE IS THE SAME FIRE IN BOTH PLACES; and prays that souls may be delivered 'from the deep pit, and the mouth of the lion,' that is, from the subterranean *prison* in which the souls of the just are expiated; and finally, that the Church prays of God that 'Tartarus may not swallow them up, and that they may not fall into darkness,' that is, that they may not be longer detained in that *gloomy prison*, STRUGGLING IN SO MANY TORTURES <sup>m</sup>."

This then is the sense of the Roman Church, from which, as Perrone remarks, no discreet member of her Communion can recede, without the imputation of temerity at least. It is her doctrine, that the souls in *Purgatory* are tortured by fire, and other torments, in the same manner as the lost souls are tortured in hell.

II. It is also held, that the duration of the pains of *Purgatory* is wholly unknown, and those who have maintained that they are of short duration, have been *condemned* by the Roman Church. Tournely says that we cannot and ought not certainly to affirm any thing with regard to "the duration" of this punishment <sup>n</sup>. Bouvier, Bishop of Mans, in reply to the question "How long are the souls of

<sup>m</sup> Benedict. *ubi supra*, p. 77.

<sup>n</sup> Tournely *De Deo*, t. i. p. 582.

the *just* detained in Purgatory?" says, "This is *wholly unknown*: Alexander VII. condemned the following proposition, 'An annual legacy left for a soul, does not last longer than ten years.' St. Augustine recommended his mother thirty years after her death to the sacrifices and prayers of his readers: the Church celebrates anniversaries appointed many ages before for certain souls in particular. Therefore it may be that souls remain for a great length of time in Purgatory, and many interpret those words of St. Peter (1 Ep. iii. 19, 20,) 'By which also he went and preached to the spirits in prison, which were some time unbelieving, when once they waited for the long-suffering of God, in the days of Noe, when the ark was preparing,' of the souls detained in Purgatory from the time of the Deluge, to the descent of Christ into hell, that is, *for two thousand years and upwards*°." Thus it is evident, that, according to the received Romish doctrine, the time spent in Purgatory by the souls of the just is of an unknown length, and may extend to many thousands of years.

III. It is a matter of debate amongst Romish theologians, whether the souls detained in Purgatory are not *tortured by devils*. "It is uncertain," says Bouvier, "whether the devils torture the righteous in Purgatory; some grave theologians with St. Thomas, deny it; but St. Bernard affirms it, whose

° Bouvier, De Pœnit. p. 287.

opinion is favoured by the liturgies, in which God is entreated to deliver those souls from the lion's mouth<sup>p</sup>." Cardinal Bellarmine observes that the doctrine is uncertain, because the schoolmen with St. Thomas, deny it; but "on the other hand, that the souls in Purgatory are tortured by devils, is taught by *many revelations*, as that of St. Furseus in Beda, lib. ii. c. 19, and in Dionysius Carthusianus," &c<sup>q</sup>.

IV. I have now only to add that it is the doctrine of the Roman Church and of all your theologians, that Purgatory receives only the souls of the just, i. e. of those persons who die in a state of justification and grace, free from the guilt of mortal sin.

The Council of Trent distinctly intimates that "after the *grace of justification* is received," temporal penalties for sin remain to be endured in this world or in *Purgatory*<sup>r</sup>. The Catechism of the Council describes it as "a fire in which the souls of the *pious*, being tortured for a certain time, are expiated<sup>s</sup>." Bossuet says that "those who depart

<sup>p</sup> Bouvier, p. 286.

<sup>q</sup> Bellarminus De Purgatorio, lib. ii. c. xiv.

<sup>r</sup> Si quis post acceptam justificationis gratiam, cuilibet peccatori pœnitenti ita culpam remitti, ut reatum æternæ pœnæ deleri dixerit, ut nullus remaneat reatus pœnæ temporalis exsolvendæ vel in hoc sæculo vel in futuro in Purgatorio, antequàm ad regna cœlorum aditus patere possit; anathema sit. Conc. Trid. Sess. vi. can. 30.

<sup>s</sup> Præterea est purgatorius ignis, quo piorum animæ ad definitum tempus cruciatæ expiantur, ut eis in æternam patriam

this life in the *state of grace and charity*, but without having discharged their debt of temporal punishment reserved by the justice of God, suffer that punishment in the other life<sup>t</sup>." Perrone says: "By the word 'Purgatory' we mean a state of expiation, to endure for a time, in which *just souls* . . . are detained<sup>u</sup>." Tournely, Bouvier, Delahogue, and all your other Divines, employ exactly the same language.

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Having thus ascertained what doctrines on the subject of Purgatory are received, approved, and authorized in the Roman Communion, though they have not been formally defined by the Council of Trent, we are in a position to explain to you the reasons for which the public in this country so strongly object to the doctrine in question.

"I am at a loss to conceive," you say, "what can be considered in it repugnant to the *justice of God*, or to the ordinary ways of Providence; what can be found therein opposed to the moral law, in the remotest degree. The idea that God, besides condemning some to eternal punishment, and receiving others to eternal glory, should have

ingressus patere possit, in quam nihil coinquinatum ingreditur.  
Cat. Conc. Trid. pars i. art. v. c. 5.

<sup>t</sup> Bossuet, Exposition, c. vii.

<sup>u</sup> Perrone, Præl. Theol. vol. iii. p. 308. ed. Lovan. 1839.



been pleased to appoint a middle and temporary state, in which those who are not sufficiently guilty for the severer condemnation, nor sufficiently pure to enjoy the vision of His face, are for a time punished and purged, so as to be qualified for this blessing, assuredly contains nothing but what is most accordant to all we can conceive of His *justice*. . . . What then, in God's name, is there in this doctrine, viewed simply in itself, that can make it so popular a theme of declamation against Catholics? The *anti-Scriptural* doctrine of Purgatory, as it is termed, is more frequently than almost any other of our less important dogmas, the theme of obloquy and misrepresentation<sup>x</sup>."

Let me endeavour to account to you for the feelings of which you complain, and at the same time to shew that they are just and well-founded.

In the first place, then, I would again draw your attention to the fact that Romanists most positively assert, that none but the *just* or *righteous* are admitted into Purgatory. Its punishments are reserved exclusively for those who die without the guilt of mortal sin, and in a state of justification. The pains of Purgatory are supposed to be inflicted in order to satisfy the *justice* of God for the temporal punishment still remaining due for remitted mortal sin, or for venial sin still remaining. You will not dispute the correctness of this statement.

In the second place, let us consider what you

<sup>x</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. p. 52, 53.

believe to be the relation of the *just* to God, or what is implied in *justification*. According to the Council of Trent, then, “Justification is not merely remission of sin, but *sanctification*, and the renewal of the inner man by the voluntary reception of grace and Divine gifts; so that he who was unrighteous is made *righteous*, and the enemy becomes a *friend*, and an heir according to the hope of eternal life. . . . When a man is justified, and *united to Jesus Christ*, he receives, together with the remission of sins, the following gifts bestowed upon him at the same time, namely, *faith, hope, and charity*.”

Thus justification includes the gift of *sanctifying grace*; and according to Perrone, whose theology is taught in the University of Rome, “Sanctifying grace, which is usually called ‘habitual,’ is commonly defined as ‘a supernatural gift of God, permanently inherent in the soul, by which a man is immediately and formally rendered *holy, just, pleasing to God, the adoptive Son of God*, capable of doing works deserving of eternal life, and an heir of the same.’ From this definition *the whole system of Catholic doctrine*, with regard to the nature of this grace and *its effects*, is collected; as, first, that it is intrinsic to our souls, or closely adherent to them; secondly, that *it washes the soul from its defilement, and makes it refulgent with a sort of Divine beauty*; thirdly, that this sanctifying grace is *inseparable from justification*, which depends on

† Concil. Trident. Sess. vi. cap. vii.

it, since a sinner is, by one and the same act, *made just and holy*.”

When, therefore, you speak of a *just* man—of one who has received the grace of justification, you mean that he is reconciled to God; holy; full of faith, hope, and charity; full of all-sanctifying grace; free from the defilement of sin; refulgent with the beauty of sanctity, a child of God, an heir of salvation, well-pleasing to God, united to Jesus Christ. There is in short no term applied by Scripture to the holy objects of God’s love, which you do not believe applicable in all its fulness to the *just*. And yet, Sir, you hold that God consigns these his beloved children to the tortures of HELL, for a period, the extent of which you cannot in any way calculate! You believe that they are, perhaps for *thousands of years*, tortured in the same fire which torments the lost spirits; that they are enveloped in darkness, struggling in anxiety of mind; and in fine, perfectly “miserable.” And this, Sir, is the representation you give of the mercy and the justice of God. The *mercy* of God is, according to your doctrine, exhibited in demanding payment “even to the last farthing” for venial sins, and plunging the objects of His love into the torments of the damned, because they have departed this life without satisfying for some trivial fault. The *justice* of God is shewn by His exacting payment “even to the last farthing” for

<sup>z</sup> Perrone, Præl. Theol. t. v. p. 210.

sins which He has *already pardoned*—and by imposing the tortures of the reprobate and of devils on those who are “just” and “holy,” and “washed from all defilement,” and whose souls are “refulgent with divine beauty !”

Can it be a matter of surprise even to yourself, that, we reject such doctrine, as most highly injurious to God? I cannot understand how it is possible, that with such facts as these before the world, you can venture to appeal to our sense of the “*justice*” of God in connection with the doctrine of Purgatory. You are “at a loss to conceive what can be considered in it repugnant to the justice of God.” We are equally at a loss to imagine, how the justice of God can be believed by those who embrace the doctrine of Purgatory, as generally taught and held in the Church of Rome.

But further: according to your doctrine, the punishment of Purgatory is required by the unsatisfied JUSTICE of God. The *infinite* atonement offered by our Lord Jesus Christ is, it seems, insufficient to satisfy the demands of Divine Justice. No: after that atonement has been applied to the soul, and has produced its full justification and sanctification, Divine Justice still remains unsatisfied! What then, we would ask, is the benefit of Christ’s atonement for sin, if it does not satisfy the JUSTICE of God? If that justice be not satisfied by the merits of Christ applied in justification, we may say with the Apostle, “Your faith is vain, ye are yet in your

sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." (1 Cor. xv. 18, 19.) The doctrine of Purgatory, therefore, subverts our hope of salvation. It leaves the justified without any shield against the demands of infinite and awful justice. Let it not be alleged, in reply, that the justice of God is *partially* appeased by the merits of Christ applied in justification, but that it has further demands on us; for this still subverts our belief in the *infinite* value of Christ's atonement: it assumes most unwarrantably, that the demands of *infinite* justice are capable of *division*: it leaves us in total uncertainty as to the amount of the demands which Divine justice may have upon us: in fine, in admitting that it has any demands on us at all, it shakes our confidence in the atonement of our Lord: it teaches us to look away from that atonement, and to place our confidence in other things which still remain, to save us from the tremendous inflictions of a justice and a wrath which not even the death of the incarnate Deity could appease! Oh, how frail, how fearful is this hope! How would the repentant and justified sinner shudder to find himself on the brink of this precipice, with the tortures of HELL before him, and with nothing to satisfy the demands of Divine justice—nothing to appease the terrors of Divine wrath, except some of his own works and observances in the few years of sin and infirmity which he spends in this life! What can be the value of those breathings and



actings of a worm? Can they satisfy that justice which God Himself, “manifest in the flesh,” has failed to satisfy? Can they afford any ground of hope, when the *very sacrifice* of Christ, from which they derive whatever worth they may claim, is itself pronounced insufficient to meet the demands of divine justice?

But this, Sir, is not the whole of your received doctrine on the point. I have already shewn that you, and all Romish theologians teach, *as a matter of course*, that temporal punishments inflicted on the justified, whether in this world or in Purgatory, are necessary to appease the “wrath,” the “anger,” and the “vengeance” of an offended God<sup>a</sup>. You believe, therefore, that God is full of wrath and revenge towards the souls in Purgatory; and yet you believe, as I have shewn in this letter, that those very souls are just, holy, full of faith, hope, and charity; well-pleasing to God, and refulgent with divine beauty! Is not this something like blasphemy? I am sure that Romanists have no *intention* whatever to teach any doctrines which can be in any degree injurious to God. I am equally certain that they rarely think of comparing the doctrine of Purgatory with that of Justification. But the result of their doctrine is simply this: *that the Saints are pursued by the Divine hatred and revenge!* I would now ask you, whether you can much wonder at the repugnance with which your

<sup>a</sup> Letter II. p. 39—41.



doctrine of Purgatory is viewed ; and I would still more solemnly and earnestly enquire, whether it is possible that such a doctrine can be true ?

Your writers endeavour to obviate the prejudice which must be excited against the doctrine of Purgatory when understood, by representing that the punishment thus inflicted, is, after all, somewhat milder than that of hell ; for as Dens says, “ It is much alleviated by the friendship of God, and the certainty of obtaining glory, and by resignation to the most just will of God <sup>b</sup>. ” But let me ask, how can those souls feel consolation from the “ friendship ” of God, when, according to your doctrine, they are still subjects of His “ justice,” His “ wrath,” His “ anger,” and His “ vengeance ? ” And what reason is there to maintain that souls in Purgatory are “ certain of obtaining glory,” when the “ justice ” of God, which demands *eternal* punishment, still remains unsatisfied ? It is imagined that their future happiness is made known to them by revelation in their particular judgment after death, and before the general judgment ; and that such souls know that they have continued in a state of grace and will therefore be finally saved. But Sir, according to your received doctrine, they know equally well, that they are subject to the demands of God’s *justice* and *wrath* ; and they have just as much reason therefore to think, that they shall be saved for a time, and finally punished ; as to think that they

<sup>b</sup> Dens, Theol. lib. vii. p. 354.

shall be punished for a time and finally saved. In short, Sir, "resignation" is the only consolation remaining to such souls; and easy as it may be to be resigned to the inflictions of a *loving* Father—a *reconciled* God; it is not so easy to feel resignation under the punishments of an *angry* and *wrathful* God. If it were so, we might suppose that the punishments of the damned, and of devils may be alleviated by resignation. No: resignation was never intended to be exercised in diminishing the demands of *justice* and of *vengeance*. It is in vain, therefore, that any attempt is made to draw distinctions between the punishments of Hell and of Purgatory; and this attempt is at once entirely and utterly subverted, by the direct assertions of Benedict XIV., Bellarmine, Cajetan, Dens, and others, that the punishment of Purgatory "IS THE VERY SAME AS THAT OF HELL, its eternity only being removed."

The answer of Romanists to all this may be readily anticipated. They will exclaim: "This is not our *belief*: it has never been defined by the Church: it is no where to be found written in express terms in the Council of Trent: we are therefore not *required* to *believe* it." In this manner they would gladly relieve themselves from the imputation of such errors, and from the legitimate prejudices which they are calculated to excite.

But they cannot escape under these pretexts; for I admit indeed that the whole mass of doctrine on

Purgatory which has been produced, has not been formally defined by the Council of Trent, and therefore that it is not strictly *de fide* in the Roman obedience ; but I assert, on the authority of their most eminent divines, that the doctrines I have adduced, are, *in fact generally, if not universally, received, held, and acted on in their Communion—that they are received without censure or disapprobation from any authority—and that any Romanist who openly opposed or censured them, would be liable to censure from authority.* I would in short ask, Whether any Romanist is now prepared to censure or publicly reject any of the above doctrines ? Will he anathematize or even censure the doctrine, that the souls of the righteous are tortured in Purgatory—that they are struggling in fiery tortures—that they suffer torments of sense—that the pains they suffer are most horrible, and far beyond any that are endured in this life—that they differ from the tortures of hell chiefly in duration—that this torture is of unknown length, and may continue for thousands of years—that it is exacted by God's justice, after sin has been pardoned—that it is inflicted by an angry God on the justified ? No, Sir : neither you, nor any other Romanist will venture to uplift your voice against this doctrine, although it is not contained in the decrees of Trent. It is therefore the *doctrine* of Romanists—the *received and approved doctrine* in their Communion ; though it may not be *de fide* ; and therefore they cannot escape

from it, or persuade us that it is not really their doctrine. Let us see it openly disputed and denied, with impunity, by Romanists; and then, but not till then, will we exonerate them from the charges to which it gives rise.

§ 3. *Romish Proofs from Theological Reasons  
and Scripture, refuted.*

Let us now come to your arguments in proof of the doctrine of Purgatory.

I. The first and leading argument of all your theologians is, that “since temporal punishments are due to Divine justice for remitted sins, such punishments, if not averted by satisfactions in this world, must be endured in Purgatory.”

I have already shewn that the foundations of this argument are perfectly untenable. It has been proved in Letters II. and III., that the doctrine of temporal penalties being due to God’s justice for *remitted sin*, is unsupported by Revelation, opposed to the word of God, contradictory to sound doctrine, inconsistent with the doctrine of the Roman Church herself. I have further proved in Letters III. and IV., that satisfactions or penitential works for *remitted* sins, are not required by God. Hence it follows, as a matter of course, that the above argument of your writers for Purgatory is wholly unavailing; and we are entitled to reverse it in the following manner.

According to the Gospel, the Divine justice is satisfied, and the anger of God is appeased, when sin has been remitted by the infinite merits of Christ applied by true repentance, (comprising contrition, confession, and works of repentance.) Consequently, no further *penalties* can be exacted by Divine *justice* or *anger* from the justified believer; and therefore he has no debt of satisfaction to pay in this life or another; although he may be afflicted by God for his greater sanctification, and is always bound to live a life of humility, watchfulness, and self-denial.

II. There is another favourite argument of all your theologians, which I shall (merely for the sake of convenience) give in your own words. “No one will venture to assert that all sins are equal before God—that there is no difference between those cold-blooded and deliberate acts of crime which the hardened villain perpetrates, and those smaller and daily transgressions into which we habitually, and almost inadvertently, fall. At the same time, we know that God cannot bear to look on iniquity, however small; that He requires whatever comes into His presence to be perfectly pure and worthy of Him; and we might rationally conclude that there should be some means, whereby those who are in the middle state of offence, between deep and deadly transgressions on the one hand, and a state of perfect purity and holiness on the other, may be dealt with according to the just measure of His



justice<sup>c</sup>.” “We are assured in the new Law, that ‘nothing defiled shall enter into the heavenly Jerusalem.’ Rev. xxi. 27. Suppose then, that a Christian dies, who had committed some slight transgression; he cannot enter Heaven in this state, and yet we cannot suppose that he is to be condemned for ever. What alternative then are we to admit? Why, that there is some place in which the soul will be purged of the sin, and qualified to enter into the glory of God<sup>d</sup>.”

This, Sir, is the palmary argument of all your writers in support of the doctrine of Purgatory. They all contend, with you, that those who die after having committed some of those smaller transgressions, defects, or faults, which you call *venial sins*, cannot be admitted into Heaven, into which “nothing defiled” can enter; and consequently that they must be purified from the guilt of those venial sins in Purgatory.

Let us now consider for a moment what your opinions are with regard to venial sin, and whether you really consider it to be sin *at all*, properly speaking. It is the doctrine of the Council of Trent, that, for sins committed after baptism, the sacrament of penitence is the divinely-appointed remedy: “If any one saith, that penitence is not “truly and properly a sacrament instituted by “Christ our Lord for reconciling the faithful to

<sup>c</sup> Controv. Lectures, vol. ii. p. 52, 53.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. p. 57.



“ God *as often as they fall into sins* after baptism ; “ let him be Anathema<sup>e</sup>.” The same doctrine is taught by the Catechism of the Council. “ After “ the baptismal innocence is lost, unless one takes “ refuge in penitence, without doubt, his salvation “ should be despaired of<sup>f</sup>.” According to Perrone, penitence “ as a sacrament is universally defined, “ ‘ A sacrament instituted by Christ the Lord, in “ which, by the authoritative absolution of the “ priests, a man who is contrite, and has confessed, “ receives *remission of his sins* committed after baptism<sup>g</sup>.’ ” The same definition is given by Tournely<sup>h</sup>, Bouvier<sup>i</sup>, Dens, and your other theologians and writers. Hence therefore it is plain, that you believe the sacrament of penance to be the divinely-appointed mode of obtaining remission of *sins* committed after baptism.

It is also certain that you do not believe that venial sins are properly or necessarily the subject of this sacrament. You believe that they are a *sufficient* subject ; i. e. that a person may, if he wishes, confess venial sins, and receive absolution for them ; but you do not consider it necessary to do so<sup>k</sup>. It

<sup>e</sup> Concil. Trident. Sess. xiv. c. i.

<sup>f</sup> Cat. Conc. Tridentini, pars ii. De Pœn. Sacramento.

<sup>g</sup> Perrone, Præl. Theol. t. vi. p. 366.

<sup>h</sup> Tournely, De Pœnit. t. i. p. 10.

<sup>i</sup> Bouvier, De Pœnit. p. 7.

<sup>k</sup> Dens, Theologia, t. vi. p. 7 ; Ligorio, Theol. Moral. t. vi. p. 45. 79 ; Tournely, De Pœnit. t. i. p. 102 ; Bouvier, De Pœnit. p. 32 ; Perrone, *ubi supra*, p. 455.

is the judgment of your theologians that, although the Canon of the Lateran Synod *Omnis utriusque sexús*, renders it absolutely incumbent on every member of your Communion to confess *all his sins* once in the year, yet, nevertheless, it is not incumbent on those who are conscious only of *venial sins* to confess them<sup>1</sup>; and that a priest is bound to administer the Eucharist without exacting any previous confession, if the petitioner declares that he is only guilty of venial sin<sup>m</sup>.

Now, Sir, we may fairly conclude from this, that the Roman Church herself does not believe that venial sin is properly and really sin at all. St. Thomas, according to Tournely, thinks, that “repentance, really and properly so called, is not “necessary for the remission of venial sins, but a “*virtual* displeasingness in this life, or the pain of “Purgatory in another<sup>n</sup>.” The Council of Trent itself declares, that venial sins may be remitted in many ways besides by penitence<sup>o</sup>; and Tournely<sup>p</sup> and Dens<sup>q</sup> (after St. Thomas Aquinas) consider the repetition of the Lord’s Prayer, knocking on the breast, the sprinkling of holy water, a Bishop’s or a Priest’s blessing, and other similar matters, quite

<sup>1</sup> Ligorio, *Theologia Moral.* t. vi. p. 319.

<sup>m</sup> *Ibid.* p. 318.

<sup>n</sup> Tournely, *De Deo*, t. i. p. 623.

<sup>o</sup> *Concil. Trid. Sess. xiv. c. v.*

<sup>p</sup> Tournely, *De Pœnit.* t. i. p. 104.

<sup>q</sup> Dens, *Theol.* t. vi. p. 39.

sufficient to remove the guilt of venial sin. Ligorio, after Aquinas, affirms, that “any motion of grace or charity” remits venial sin<sup>r</sup>. It is evident, then, that venial sin is, in your opinion, a very slight and trifling fault, failing, infirmity, or imperfection, rather than a real sin. If you believed it a sin, strictly speaking, you would apply the remedy which you believe God to have instituted for the remission of sin, and would oblige your people to confess it every year.

But besides this, you believe that venial sin is perfectly consistent with a state of justification and grace; and consequently, as I have shewn, you are firmly convinced, that notwithstanding a justified person may have committed venial sin, he is nevertheless “*holy, just, well-pleasing to God, united to Christ, endowed with the grace of sanctification, refulgent with Divine beauty.*”

So then your doctrine comes to this: That those who are full of *holiness and of all heavenly graces*, are, on account of some *trifling failings, which do not even require repentance*, to be tortured in Purgatory, with the punishment of devils, for an unknown length of time! Is this your representation of the justice of God?

And you also maintain, that those who are thus holy, thus sanctified, thus *united to Christ*, are unworthy to be received into heaven! Yes: because it is written, that “there shall in no wise enter into

<sup>r</sup> Ligorio, *ubi supra*, p. 44.

it *any thing that defileth*, neither whatsoever worketh “abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are “written in the Lamb’s book of life;” (Rev. xxi. 27.) You assert, that the justified who die after the commission of some trivial fault are unfit to enter Heaven. The “justified” then, according to you, are defiled! The “holy” are defiled! The “members of Christ” are defiled! The “children of God” are defiled! They are too impure to be received into Heaven; and yet they are not too impure to be “members of Christ.” They are fit to be “*members of Christ*,” but they are so defiled that they cannot be permitted to enter His *presence*. Was there ever known such an absurd, such a monstrous, such a contradictory doctrine? If no one shall be received into Heaven that “maketh a *lie*,” those who uphold this doctrine may well tremble. Those who would consign to the tortures of hell the holy and glorious objects of God’s love, are themselves guilty of a *mortal* sin against the God of truth, of mercy, and of charity.

III. Romanists appeal in the next place to the Holy Scriptures. I shall again avail myself without scruple of your words.

(1.) “There is a passage with which, probably, “most who have looked into this subject are well “acquainted. It is in the second book of Mac- “cabees (chapter xii.) where we are told how “Judas, the valiant commander, made a collection, “and ‘sent twelve thousand drachms of silver to

“ Jerusalem for sacrifice, to be offered for the sins  
 “ of the dead, thinking well and religiously con-  
 “ cerning the resurrection.’ For if he had not  
 “ hoped that they that were slain should rise  
 “ again, it would have seemed superfluous and vain  
 “ to pray for the dead. It is, therefore, a holy  
 “ and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that  
 “ they may be loosed from their sins. (xii. 43—46.)  
 “ . . . It proves therefore, that, at the time of the  
 “ Maccabees, the conviction existed, that when  
 “ prayers were offered for the dead, they were  
 “ beneficial to them, and that it was ‘a holy and  
 “ wholesome thought to pray for the dead<sup>s</sup>.’ ”

In commenting on this argument of all your writers, let me first observe, that the persons for whose sins these sacrifices and prayers were made, had been slain in battle (verse 34) ; and that when Judas and his company came to bury them, “ under  
 “ the coats of every one that was slain, they found  
 “ things consecrated to the idols of the Jamnites,  
 “ which is forbidden the Jews by the Law. Then  
 “ every man saw that *this was the cause wherefore*  
 “ *they were slain.* ” (verse 40.)

From this it appears that the cause for which these people were slain, was their possession of what was “ accursed ” by the Law, (1 Deut. vii. 25, 26.) and their symbolizing with idolaters, offences to which the extreme penalty of death was awarded by the law of God. They were thus guilty of

<sup>s</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. 54, 55.



*mortal* sin. If therefore, this passage correctly states the tenets of the Jews at that time, it proves that they believed it lawful to pray for the pardon of those who died in *mortal sin*—and therefore either they or you must be in error, for you hold it inconsistent with the Catholic faith to pray for those who die in mortal sin. Your writers allege that the sin was venial in this case, because those who were slain were ignorant that they were in possession of things offered to idols; but this is purely conjectural; and had it been the case, these persons could not have been punished with *death*, without having committed any real sin which deserved it. It is contended by Romanists, that as the custom of praying for the dead, here mentioned, existed among the Jews in our Saviour's time, and was not *reproved* by him, it must be lawful. What is this but to condemn your own doctrine on the subject? If it were lawful, in the opinion of the Jews, to pray for those who had died suddenly in mortal sin, and if our Saviour did not reprove this view, then it follows that Christians ought to imitate their example. Nevertheless you refuse to do so, and pronounce it wrong. So that your own doctrine and practice are condemned by the passage you have adduced in their favour.

Remember that I am not here contending against the practice of prayer for the departed faithful, as it was allowed in the primitive Church. I am merely denying that this passage of the



Maccabees can afford any support to your belief, that the *justified* who are *free from mortal sin*, are in a state of torment in another life.

(2.) Romanists next appeal to the New Testament. “ Our blessed Saviour, on one occasion, “ distinguishes two kinds of sin, and calls one a sin “ against the Holy Ghost, saying, ‘ Whosoever “ shall speak a word against the Son of man, it “ shall be forgiven him ; but he that shall speak “ against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven “ him, either in this world, or in the next.’ Matt. “ xii. 32. Here is a species of sin, the aggravated “ nature of which is expressed by its not being for- “ given in the next world. Should we not thence “ conclude, that some other sins may be forgiven “ there ? Why give this peculiar characteristic to “ one, if no sin is ever pardoned in the next world ? “ Assuredly, we have a right to conclude that there “ is some remission of sin there ; and yet it cannot “ be either in Heaven, or in the place of eternal “ punishment. We must therefore admit some other “ state in which this may be.”

Now, Sir, admitting that such a conclusion may *possibly* be drawn from our Saviour’s words, I have yet to learn that such a *possibility* is sufficient to found an article of Catholic Faith. It may be that such a doctrine was meant to be taught by these words, or it may be that our Lord had no such intention ; for surely you do not mean to say that your conclusion follows as a matter of *necessity* from

this text—that because Christ says that a certain sin *shall not* be forgiven in this world or in the next, *therefore* there are sins which *will* be forgiven in the next world. You must see, that conclusions gathered in this way from texts which do not *necessarily* infer them, are wholly insufficient to prove articles of faith. It is very true that St. Augustine argues with you from this text, that some sins will be remitted in the world to come; but he adds, with becoming caution; “Concerning this thing, since it “ is a most deep question, no precipitate opinion is “ to be formed<sup>t</sup>.” And if St. Gregory the Great also makes use of the same argument<sup>u</sup>, I must beg to remind you, that according to the received doctrine of all your theologians, the sentiment of one or two of the Fathers is quite insufficient to constitute an article of faith. On the other hand, many of the Fathers understand the expression of our Lord, that this sin “ shall not be forgiven him in “ this world or in the next,” as simply equivalent to saying, that it *never* shall be remitted. This may be collected from St. Jerome<sup>x</sup>, Chrysostom<sup>y</sup>, Theophylact<sup>z</sup>, Hilary of Poitiers<sup>a</sup>, Theophilus of An-

<sup>t</sup> De qua re, quoniam profundissima quæstio est, non est modò præcipitanda sententia. August. lib. vi. cont. Julian. c. 15. t. x.

<sup>u</sup> Gregor. Mag. Dialog. lib. iv. c. 39.

<sup>x</sup> Hieron. Comment. in S. Matt. Oper. t. ii. p. 50.

<sup>y</sup> Chrysost. Oper. t. vii. p. 449. ed. Benedict.

<sup>z</sup> Theophylact. Comment. in IV. Evang. *in loc.* Paris, 1631.

<sup>a</sup> Hilarius Pictav. Opera, p. 671. ed. Benedict.

tioch<sup>b</sup>, Dionysius, Carthusianus<sup>c</sup>, &c.; and therefore there is nothing unreasonable in our adopting that interpretation, more especially as our Lord is represented in the other Gospels as actually using the word “never” to express his meaning more fully. But besides this, the text, as interpreted by Romanists, goes to establish a doctrine which they do not themselves believe; i. e. that sin in general may be remitted in another world; and consequently that those who die in *mortal sin*, may be pardoned after death. You will answer in a moment, that the text only refers to the *temporal punishment* due to *remitted mortal sin*, or to *venial sins*. But where, I would ask, have you learnt this? What authority have you for thus forcing the text to suit your own purposes? The text says nothing of “temporal punishments” or of “venial sins;” it simply and broadly speaks of “sin;” and if you are entitled to limit its meaning to suit your own purposes, why do you not also limit the words of our Lord, “whosoever sins ye remit they are “remitted?” and say that they only confer the power of remitting “temporal penalties” or “venial “sins?”

(3.) We next come to the famous text; “Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build

<sup>b</sup> Theophil. Antioch. Comment. in IV. Evang. lib. i. Bibl. Patr. t. i. p. 874.

<sup>c</sup> Dionys. Carthus. *in loc.*

“ upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones,  
 “ wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be  
 “ made manifest: for the day shall declare it,  
 “ because it shall be revealed by fire; and the  
 “ fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.  
 “ If any man’s work abide which he hath built  
 “ thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any  
 “ man’s work shall be burnt, he shall suffer loss:  
 “ but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”  
 (1 Cor. iii. 11—15.)

This passage, which so many of your writers advance in proof of the doctrine of Purgatory, does not seem to you or to Perrone to have much weight. The reasons for this are supplied by Tournely<sup>d</sup> and Natalis Alexander<sup>e</sup>, from whom we learn, that although many persons understand the text in the sense usually given to it by modern Romanists, yet St. Augustine himself confesses that it is obscure and difficult to understand; and he says that “ he  
 “ should prefer to hear persons of more under-  
 “ standing and wisdom” on that subject<sup>f</sup>. Bellarmine observes, that there are many points in this text on which interpreters do not agree. First, what is meant by the builders; 2. what by gold, silver, and precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 3. what by the day of the Lord; 4. what by the fire which shall try every man’s work. It appears

<sup>d</sup> Tournely, *De Deo*, t. i. p. 590.

<sup>e</sup> Natalis Alexander, *Dissert.* xlv. in *Hist.* iv. seculi.

<sup>f</sup> Augustinus, *lib. de Fide et Operibus*, cap. xvi.

that Chrysostom, Theodoret, and the Greek Fathers, understand the fire here spoken of to be the *eternal* fire of hell, while St. Augustine and St. Gregory the Great believe that it signifies only the tribulations of this life<sup>g</sup>. In conclusion Natalis Alexander and Tournely remark, that amidst such various expositions of interpreters, Purgatory can only be deduced *probably* from this text, not demonstratively. It is plain, therefore, that we need not trouble ourselves in discussing with you the meaning of this passage.

(4.) There is another text which is in much favour with some Romanists, and which we may as well consider here. I allude to the well known passage in the first epistle of St. Peter: “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. By which also he went and preached unto the Spirits in prison; which some time were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noe.” (1 Pet. iii. 18—20.)

How the doctrine of Purgatory is to be deduced from this, it is not easy to see. It is very true that a “prison” is here mentioned, but the inhabitants of this prison were those who were *disobedient* in the days of Noah, and we have no right hence to infer that the *justified* or *obedient* are cast into

<sup>g</sup> Bellarmin. De Purgatorio, lib. ii. cap. v.



any prison after death, more especially when it is considered that we are now under a different dispensation from that under which these souls were in prison, and that no conclusive argument can be drawn from their condition to ours.

(5.) As to that text which other writers of yours quote, “ I tell thee, thou shalt not come out thence, “ till thou hast paid the last farthing,” (Luke xii. 59,) I need only refer to Natalis Alexander, one of your most approved theologians, who observes that “ this place does not demonstrate Purgatory;” for according to St. Augustine, the “ adversary” who accuses us to the judge, is the Law of God ; while St. Hilary, Ambrose, Jerome, &c. believe that it signifies any one whom we have injured, and who complains to God against us ; and that the prison here mentioned is *Hell*, from which the sinner shall *never* escape. This is also the interpretation of St. Augustine<sup>h</sup>. It is plain, therefore, that no argument for Purgatory can be deduced from this text, as Natalis Alexander remarks.

As for the other passages of Scripture which various writers have adduced in support of Purgatory, I refer you to the writer last mentioned, who has sufficiently shewn their insufficiency.

#### § 4. *Romish Proofs from Tradition, refuted.*

We now come to your arguments from tradition in support of the doctrine of Purgatory.

<sup>h</sup> This is proved by Natalis Alexander, *ubi supra*.



It would be impossible in a short Tract to examine all the passages which have been adduced in proof of the doctrine of Purgatory. I shall therefore content myself with noticing those which you have yourself selected from the “Faith of Catholics<sup>i</sup>,” as bearing most strongly on the point.

We are first referred to Tertullian’s statement that a Christian widow “prays for the soul of her husband, entreating repose for him, and participation in the first resurrection<sup>k</sup>.” This will not aid you, for the mere circumstance of her entreating repose or rest for him, does not imply that he was not actually in the enjoyment of that “rest which remaineth for the people of God.” We pray for those who are in a state of grace in this world, that they may have faith, hope, and charity; meaning to express our desire that those graces may be *continued* and *increased*. So also the Christian widow meant to pray that her husband might *continue* in his “rest” and that it might be *augmented*. There is not the slightest reason to suppose that she believed him to be in a state of *suffering*.

St. Cyprian states that his predecessors “advised that no brother, departing this life, should nominate any Churchman his executor; and should he do it, that no oblation should be made for him,

<sup>i</sup> Controv. Lectures, vol. ii. p. 59—63.

<sup>k</sup> Tertull. de Monogamia, c. 10.

“nor sacrifice offered for his repose<sup>1</sup>.” And it is hence argued, that “it was considered a severe punishment, that prayers and sacrifices should not be offered up for those who had violated any of the ecclesiastical laws<sup>m</sup>.”

A *punishment* it certainly was—a mark of reprobation on the memory of the deceased—an exclusion from the ordinary offices of Christian love and honour at that time. But you will in vain look here for any intimation of a belief that the souls of the departed faithful were in any *torment*.

We are next referred to Origen, and informed that “no one can be clearer regarding this doctrine.” Origen says: “When we depart this life, if we take with us virtues or vices, shall we receive reward for our virtues, and those trespasses be forgiven to us which we knowingly committed; or shall we be punished for our faults, and not receive the reward of our virtues? Neither is true; because we shall suffer for our sin, and receive the reward of our good actions . . . . Would you enter into Heaven with your wood, and hay, and stubble, to defile the kingdom of God; or, on account of those incumbrances, remain without, and receive no reward for your gold, and silver, and precious stones? . . . It is manifest that, in the first place, the fire destroys

<sup>1</sup> Cypr. Ep. xlv. p. 114.

<sup>m</sup> Lectures, p. 59.

“ the wood of our transgressions, and then returns  
 “ to us the reward of our good works<sup>n</sup>.”

On this passage I would beg to quote to you the note of the Benedictine editors of Origen, derived from the writings of the learned Huet, Bishop of Avranches. “ Not only in this place but in a  
 “ multitude of others, Origen establishes a Purgatory ; but *in his own way*, that is to say, that  
 “ no other fire or punishments torture souls, but  
 “ those that are *purgatorial or temporary*.” In fact Origen denied the eternity of future punishments ; as St. Augustine remarks in his book on heresies ; and the doctrine of which you so highly approve is styled by this great Father “ a most vain impiety,” which Origen had learned from the heathen philosophers, and which St. Augustine refuted in his works<sup>o</sup>. It was also condemned as a heresy by the fifth Œcumenical Synod<sup>p</sup>. The passage, then, is throughout *heretical* ; and you venture to appeal

<sup>n</sup> Origen. Hom. xvi. al. xii. in Jerem. t. iii. p. 231, 232. ed. Bened.

<sup>o</sup> Quis enim Catholicus Christianus vel doctus vel indoctus non vehementer exhorreat, eam quam dicit (Origenes) purgationem malorum, id est etiam eos qui hanc vitam in flagitiis et facinoribus et sacrilegiis atque impietatibus quamlibet maximis finierunt, ipsum etiam postremò Diabolum atque angelis ejus, quamvis post longissima tempora, purgatos atque liberatos regno Dei lucique restitui . . . De qua vanissima impietate adversus philosophos, à quibus ista didicit Origenes, in libris de Civitate Dei diligentissimè disputavi. August. Lib. de Hæres. c. xliii. t. viii. Oper. ed. Bened. p. 13.

<sup>p</sup> Natalis Alexander, Hist. Eccl. t. iii. p. 603.

to these *condemned heresies* as affording “clear” proofs of your doctrine!

We are next referred to the language of St. Basil, who, in commenting on the words of Isaiah, “Through the wrath of the Lord is the “land burned,” says, that “the things which are “earthly shall be made the food of a punishing fire: “to the end that the soul may receive favour and be “benefited;” and that there is there no “threat “of extermination, but it denotes expurgation, “according to the saying of the Apostle: If any “man’s works burn, he shall suffer loss; but he “himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire<sup>a</sup>.” I have only to remark, that it is, I think, impossible for any one to read the passage, without perceiving that St. Basil in this place was speaking only of the temporal tribulations of the Jews *in this life*, and that he did not make the slightest allusion to the doctrine of Purgatory.

St. Ephrem of Edessa is cited, as asking his brethren to pray for him after his departure, and as maintaining that “the dead are helped by the “offerings of the living<sup>r</sup>.” This merely refers to the practice of praying for the dead; it determines nothing as to their condition. You also quote the following words: “If also the sons of Mattathias “who celebrated their feasts in figure only, could “cleanse those from guilt by their offerings who fell

<sup>a</sup> Basil. Com. in cap. ix. Isai. t. i. p. 554.

<sup>r</sup> In Testament. t. ii. p. 234; p. 371. edit. Oxon.

“ in battle, how much more shall the priests of Christ  
 “ aid the dead by their oblations and prayers<sup>s</sup>.”  
 This latter passage is of very doubtful authority, for  
 it does not appear in any of the Greek manuscripts  
 of Ephrem’s works, and is only found in the Syriac<sup>t</sup>.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, it is said, asserts, “ that  
 “ the souls of those for whom the prayers are  
 “ offered, receive very great *relief* while this holy  
 “ and tremendous victim lies upon the altar<sup>u</sup>,” i. e.  
 in the holy Eucharist. I would observe in the first  
 place, that the word used is *ὄνησιν* “profit” or  
 “advantage”—not “relief;” and next, that the  
 passage merely proves the existence of the practice  
 of prayer for the departed.

St. Gregory of Nyssa is cited as teaching, that  
 “ God allows man to remain subject to what him-  
 “ self has chosen ; that having tasted of the evil  
 “ which he desired . . . and in *this life* being reno-  
 “ vated by prayers and the pursuit of Divine wis-  
 “ dom, *or in the next*, being expiated by the purging  
 “ fire, he might recover the state of happiness which  
 “ he had lost<sup>x</sup>.” I need not copy the remainder of  
 the passage, which teaches throughout the same  
 doctrine, namely, that of Origen, that persons who  
 have committed sins in this life, will be purged  
 from them by temporary punishments in another.

<sup>s</sup> Lectures, ii. 61.

<sup>t</sup> Ephrem. Syri Opera, t. ii. p. 239. 401. ed. Assemani.

<sup>u</sup> Cyril. Cateches. Mystag. ix. x. p. 328.

<sup>x</sup> Greg. Nyss. Orat. de defunctis, tom. ii. p. 1066, 1067, 1068.



These passages were doubtless interpolated by the Origenist heretics, and Dom Ceillier remarks, that there is not one of the works of Gregory of Nyssa which the heretics have so much altered, as that in which these passages are found<sup>y</sup>. You have therefore in this instance also, been only tracing the conformity of Romanism with heresies condemned by the Catholic Church.

The next quotation professes to be from St. Ambrose<sup>z</sup>, but the work in which it is contained is rejected as spurious by the Benedictine editors of St. Ambrose, and it is generally supposed by critics to be the work of Hilary, a deacon of the Roman Church who was involved in the schism of Lucifer of Cagliari<sup>a</sup>. This writer, in commenting on the words "He shall be saved, yet so as by fire," says, "He will be saved . . . because his substance shall remain, while his bad doctrine shall perish. Therefore he said, 'yet so as by fire,' in order that his salvation be not understood to be without punishment. He shews that he shall be saved indeed, but he shall undergo the punishment of fire, and thus purified, be 'saved by fire,' and not be like the unbelieving, tortured with eternal fire for ever ; *so that in some sort it may be worth one's while to have believed in Christ*<sup>b</sup>." From the above

<sup>y</sup> Ceillier, tom. viii. p. 365.

<sup>z</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. 62.

<sup>a</sup> Natalis Alexander, Hist. Eccl. tom. iv. p. 150.

<sup>b</sup> Ut per ignem purgatus fiat salvus, et non sicut perfidi æterno



passage it may be inferred that this writer was of opinion that all those who profess to be Christians, will finally be saved, even though they may have taught erroneous doctrine in the present life. Such a doctrine however, which is censured by St. Augustine, is not that of the Catholic Church.

We now come to a genuine passage from St. Ambrose, in which he prays for the soul of the Emperor Theodosius, "Give, O Lord, rest to Thy  
 " Servant Theodosius, that rest which Thou hast  
 " prepared for Thy Saints . . . I will not leave him,  
 " till, by my prayers and lamentation, he shall be  
 " admitted to the holy mount of the Lord, to which  
 " his deserts call him<sup>c</sup>." We are to infer from this, I presume, that St. Ambrose believed the soul of Theodosius at that time to be in Purgatory, suffering the torments remaining due to his sins. Was this really the case? The following extracts from the commencement of the very same funeral oration, will shew what was his view of the condition of the soul for which he prayed; and it will also suffice to explain all similar prayers in the writings of the Fathers, and in the ancient Liturgies. Theodosius, he says, "did not lay aside his king-  
 " dom (in death), but changed it, having been  
 " brought, in virtue of his piety, to the tabernacles

*igne in perpetuum torqueatur: ut ex aliqua parte operæ pretium sit credidisse in Christum. Ambrosiaster, Com. in 1 Ep. ad Cor. tom. ii. Append. p. 122. Oper. Ambrosii ed. Benedict.*

<sup>c</sup> Ambros. De Obitu Theodosii Oper. tom. ii. p. 1207, 8.

“ of Christ, to that heavenly Jerusalem, where,  
 “ BEING NOW PLACED, he saith, ‘ As we have heard,  
 “ so have we seen in the city of the Lord of Hosts  
 “ &c. <sup>d</sup>” He afterwards says, “ Being therefore  
 “ delivered from the doubtful contest, Theodosius  
 “ of august memory NOW ENJOYS PERPETUAL LIGHT,  
 “ A LENGTHENED PEACE, and for those things which  
 “ he hath done in the body, REJOICES IN THE FRUITS  
 “ OF THE DIVINE REWARD <sup>e</sup>.” Therefore St. Am-  
 brose did not believe that the soul for which he  
 prayed, was in Purgatory.

A passage from St. Epiphanius is quoted, in  
 which he says, that in prayers, “ we mention both  
 “ the just and *sinner*s, in order *that for the latter we*  
 “ *may obtain mercy* <sup>f</sup>.” There is no allusion to  
 Purgatory in this passage: it merely shews the  
 opinion of Epiphanius, which was also that of  
 Chrysostom <sup>g</sup>, and of Augustine <sup>h</sup>, that the punish-  
 ment of lost souls in the other world might be  
 alleviated by the prayers of the Church. This is

<sup>d</sup> Et ille quidem abiit accipere sibi regnum, quod non deposuit  
 sed mutavit, in tabernacula Christi jure pietatis adscitus, in illam  
 Hierusalem supernam, ubi nunc positus dicit &c. Ambr. p. 1197.

<sup>e</sup> Absolutus igitur dubio certamine, fruitur nunc augustæ me-  
 moriæ Theodosius luce perpetua, tranquillitate diuturnâ, et pro  
 iis quæ in hoc gessit corpore, remunerationis divinæ fructibus  
 gratulatur. Ib. p. 1206.

<sup>f</sup> Hæres. lv. *sive* lxxv. tom. i. p. 911.

<sup>g</sup> Chrysostom. Hom. xxi. in Act. Hom. iii. in Ep. ad Phil.

<sup>h</sup> Augustin. Enchirid. cap. cx.

a doctrine which Romanists themselves do not receive.

With reference to the passage cited by you from St. Jerome, “As we believe the torments of the devil, and of those wicked men, who said in their hearts ‘there is no God,’ to be eternal; so, in regard to those sinners *who have not denied the faith*, and whose works will be proved and purged by fire, we conclude that the sentence of the Judge will be tempered by mercy<sup>i</sup>.” In this passage St. Jerome certainly does speak of a Purgatory; but it is one which is intended for the final purification of *professing Christians, however great may have been their sins*—a doctrine which is rejected by St. Augustine<sup>k</sup>, and by the Catholic Church. Even Romanists reject the doctrine of St. Jerome in this place.

We are next met by a passage from St. Augustine, that “the prayers of the Church, or of some pious persons, are heard for those who have been regenerated in Christ, whose life in the body has not been so evil as to be judged unworthy of such mercy, nor so good as to render such mercy unnecessary. As also, after the resurrection, there shall be some to whom, after punishments which the spirits of the dead suffer, mercy shall be imparted, *that they be not cast into eternal fire*.”

<sup>i</sup> Hieron. Comment. in cap. lxv. Isai. tom. ii. p. 492.

<sup>k</sup> August. Enchirid. cap. lxvii.

“ Otherwise it would not have been said of some,  
 “ with truth, that ‘ their sin shall not be forgiven,  
 “ neither in this world, nor in the world to come,’  
 “ unless some sins were remitted in the next world<sup>1</sup>.”

This passage will not establish your doctrine, for St. Augustine is here speaking of persons who depart this life in sin, and who consequently are not in a state of justification; and he supposes that such sinners may receive pardon in the next life. But he is not speaking of THE JUST, who alone, according to the Romish doctrine, are consigned to Purgatory. This seems evident from his language elsewhere, for he asserts that “ the souls of the *pious*,  
 “ when separated from the body, ARE AT REST, but  
 “ those of the *impious* suffer punishment, until the  
 “ bodies of the former revive to eternal life, and of  
 “ the latter to eternal death<sup>m</sup>.”

The last passage is also from St. Augustine<sup>n</sup>, as follows: “ If they had built ‘ gold and silver, and  
 “ precious stones,’ they would be secure from both  
 “ fires; not only from that in which the wicked  
 “ shall be punished for ever, but likewise from that  
 “ fire which will correct those who are to be saved

<sup>1</sup> De Civitate Dei, lib. xxi. cap. 24. t. vii. p. 642.

<sup>m</sup> In requie enim sunt animæ piorum à corpore separatæ; impiorum autem pœnas luunt, donec istarum ad æternam vitam, illarum vero ad æternum mortem, quæ secunda dicitur, corpora reviviscant. De Civit. Dei, lib. xiii. c. 8. t. vii. p. 330.

<sup>n</sup> Lectures, ii. 63; Remarks on Letter from Rev. W. Palmer, p. 79.

“ by fire. . . . And because it is said ‘ he shall be saved,’ therefore *that fire* is despised. Yes, indeed, though they shall be saved by fire, that fire will be more grievous than whatever a man can suffer in this life<sup>o</sup>.”

I have only to remark, that St. Augustine himself elsewhere interprets the fire here spoken of as signifying the tribulations of this life<sup>p</sup>; and that he acknowledges the texts of Scripture here referred to to be obscure and difficult<sup>q</sup>. So that, on the whole, it is doubtful in what sense he understood the above text. It seems, however, that in this, as in the last passage, he is not speaking of THE JUSTIFIED, but of those who die in unrepented sin. Augustine says of the former: “ It is unlawful to doubt that the souls of the departed JUST AND PIOUS are living in REST<sup>r</sup>.”

As to the language of Isidore of Seville, in reference to the purifying fire, that it is “ longer and sharper than any torments which man can devise in the present life<sup>s</sup>,” I have only to say that the authority of this writer, who lived at the end of the sixth century, is of no great weight, and cannot suffice to establish an article of faith; but he expresses his doubts whether those who are penitent

<sup>o</sup> Enarrat. in Psal. xxxvii. tom. iv. p. 295.

<sup>p</sup> Enchirid. cap. lxxviii. tom. vi. p. 222.

<sup>q</sup> Lib. de fide et operibus, cap. 16. tom. vi. p. 180.

<sup>r</sup> Justorum ac piorum animæ defunctorum, quod in requie vivant, dubitare fas non est. Aug. De Civ. Dei, lib. xii. cap. ix.

<sup>s</sup> De Ordine Creaturarum, cap. xiv. cited in Remarks, p. 80.



and justified at the end of life do not receive *at once* remission of their sins, without any purifying fire<sup>t</sup>.

The passage which you quote from St. Gregory, of Nyssa, in your Remarks (p. 80), has been already noticed, (p. 43). It is of no authority, and was interpolated by the Origenist heretics.

These then are the best arguments which can be produced in favour of the doctrine of Purgatory. The errors of individual writers opposed to the Catholic doctrine, and the interpolations of heretics, are obtruded on us as the voice of tradition. But no where do we find, even in the passages adduced, the doctrine of Romanists. No where do we find it said that the “just and pious” are tortured for an indefinite time after this life with the punishments of the lost; or that this punishment is inflicted by the “unsatisfied justice” of an “angry” and “vindictive” God; or that tortures of the most horrible description are awarded to the most trivial faults which do not require repentance; or that the justified *members* of Jesus Christ are too polluted to be permitted to enter his presence. These are the doctrines received, approved, and authorized in your Communion, and which are entirely opposed to those of the Scriptures and of Catholic tradition.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid, apud Dacherii Spicileg. tom. i. p. 303.



§ 5. *The Catholic Doctrine opposed to Purgatory, confirmed by Scripture and Catholic Antiquity.*

It now only remains to establish the truth in opposition to the doctrine of Purgatory.

The belief of the Catholic Church in England, then, is expressed in the following prayer of her Ritual: "Almighty God, with whom do live the  
"spirits of them that depart hence in the Lord,  
"and with whom the souls of the faithful, after  
"they are delivered from the burden of the flesh,  
"are in joy and felicity; we give thee hearty  
"thanks," &c. We therefore believe that the justified are, after this life, in rest and happiness; that they are not suffering any torments or afflictions; and that they await the Resurrection in joyful certainty of God's favour.

How consoling and encouraging is this doctrine to those who are buffeting the waves of temptation in this life, and toiling through the narrow and thorny path which leads to eternal glory! It enables them to look with hope to that moment when this doubtful contest shall be at an end, and when the liberated soul shall enter into the joy of its Lord—when the exile of this life shall be no more, and the holy, the pure, the humble spirit of the child of God, shall be received into the kingdom of its Eternal Father. Such a thought sheds so bright a splendour over death itself, that it is lost in the glory of victory. The Christian, then,

is stimulated by hope to prepare for death, knowing that he shall receive his reward as soon as this short life is over. How different would be his feeling if he believed that the torments of this life are greatly inferior to those which await him in another; that the few years which he spends on earth are insufficient for his purification; that he must, perhaps for *thousands of years* after this life, suffer the torments of Hell, and groan under the miserable feeling of alienation from his God. The argument of St. Paul, “this light affliction, which is *but for a moment*, worketh for us a far more exceeding and “eternal weight of glory<sup>u</sup>,” would lose much of its force. He would look with anguish and terror to the end of life; though he might derive some poor consolation from the reflection, that at *some future time unknown to him*, his soul would be delivered from the tortures of Purgatory.

But the word of God strengthens us against such terrors by the unfailing assurances which it affords of God’s love towards the justified—assurances which we do not feel warranted in *limiting* and *curtailing* as you do. We receive in all its length, and breadth, and depth, and height, that promise of Scripture, “There is therefore NO CONDEMNATION to “them which are in Christ Jesus<sup>x</sup>”—no condemnation to punishment, whether temporal or eternal. We believe that “being justified by his blood, we

<sup>u</sup> 2 Cor. iv. 17.

<sup>x</sup> Rom. viii. 1.

“ shall be SAVED FROM WRATH through him<sup>y</sup>”— saved from his wrath here and hereafter. We are persuaded that “ God hath not appointed us unto “ WRATH, but to obtain salvation by our Lord “ Jesus Christ, who died for us, that WHETHER WE “ WAKE OR SLEEP we should LIVE TOGETHER WITH “ HIM<sup>z</sup>.” And hence we believe, that the justified souls in Paradise are not subject to the wrath of God, but that they are in salvation, and are *living with Christ*; and therefore we reject with horror the notion that they are subjected to the penalties of the second death, even for a time. We believe that God will “ withhold *no good thing* from them “ that walk uprightly<sup>a</sup>,” and therefore that he will not withhold from them peace and joy after this life. We know that he “ *preserveth the souls* of his “ saints<sup>b</sup>,” and therefore will not permit them to be tortured by the flames of Hell. We know that God “ has delivered us from the power of darkness<sup>c</sup>,” that Christ has declared, “ He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness<sup>d</sup>,” and therefore we fear no dark and gloomy prison after this life, and no tortures from the inhabitants of darkness. We have the promise of God, “ I “ will *never* leave thee or forsake thee<sup>e</sup>,” and how can we imagine that we shall be “ left” to the torments of infernal fire? No: relying on him

<sup>y</sup> Rom. v. 9.<sup>z</sup> 1 Thess. v. 10.<sup>a</sup> Ps. lxxxiv. 11.<sup>b</sup> Ps. xcvi. 10.<sup>c</sup> Col. i. 13.<sup>d</sup> John viii. 12.<sup>e</sup> Hebrews xiii. 5.

who has said; “with everlasting kindness will I “have mercy on thee<sup>f</sup>,” we rely on his love after the soul and body shall be separated. We believe that if Christ has said “we will come unto him, and “make our abode with him<sup>g</sup>,” tortures after this life shall not be the lot of those who are glorified by the indwelling of God.

Surely a simple and unquestioning faith would teach us to feel with the Apostle: “To us to live “is Christ, and to die is *gain*<sup>h</sup>,” and “gain” implies *rewards*, not torments. It would oblige us to believe really that “there remaineth therefore a *rest* “unto the people of God<sup>i</sup>.” It would compel us to acquiesce in the language of the pious, though uninspired author of the Book of Wisdom, that “the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, “and then shall *no torment* touch them<sup>k</sup>,” and that “though the righteous be prevented with death, “yet shall he be *in rest*<sup>l</sup>.” It would induce us to accept in all its fulness that consolatory declaration, “*Blessed* are the dead that die in the Lord, “*from henceforth*; yea, saith the Spirit, that they “may *rest* from their labours, and their works do “follow them<sup>m</sup>.” It would teach us to dwell with happiness on the assurance of our Lord to the dying malefactor, “To-day shalt thou be with me “*in paradise*<sup>n</sup>,” beholding in this the immediate

<sup>f</sup> Is. liv. 8.

<sup>g</sup> John xiv. 23.

<sup>h</sup> Phil. i. 21.

<sup>i</sup> Heb. iv. 9.

<sup>k</sup> Wisd. iii. 1.

<sup>l</sup> Ib. iv. 7.

<sup>m</sup> Rev. xiv. 13.

<sup>n</sup> Luke xxiii. 43.

reward of the departing righteous. And when we read of the rich man in torments after this life, and of Lazarus in Abraham's bosom, we should, with Catholic antiquity, see in the latter the *reward* of the righteous, even before the day of judgment.

And now it may be fairly enquired, How can you dispose of this multiform voice of Scripture, proclaiming peace, and rest, and joy, to believers, after this life? By what authority do you venture to consign those to *punishment*, whom the Scripture pronounces blessed—to subject those to Divine *justice* and *wrath*, whom the word of God declares the objects of his love? It is true that you explain away these passages. If rewards are promised, you say they are promised with a *reserve*; if rest and joy are promised, they arise only from the cessation of the toils of this present life, and are in some sense or other consistent with a residence in Purgatory. Nothing is impossible to ingenuity; no Scripture is incapable of perversion by the unstable and unlearned; but notwithstanding all distinctions, and evasions, and subtleties, the meaning of the whole of Scripture evidently is, that the justified are after this life subject to no torments; but that they repose in peace and joy; that they receive an immediate reward.

How deep and wide is the contrast between this and your doctrine. You consign the “justified,” the “sanctified,” the “members of Christ,” “bone



“ of his bone and flesh of his flesh,” to punishments, to tortures, to anguish, to flames, to misery, to the wrath and vengeance of God. Death is with you the moment when the real afflictions and torments of the justified, infinitely worse than any which they have suffered in this life, commence ; it is the entrance of the beloved children of God on a state where a vista of unknown length is filled with fire, and agonies, and torturing fiends.

Is this the doctrine which you pretend to have learned from Catholic antiquity ? Did the Fathers believe that the sufferings of the righteous were enhanced and multiplied by death ? Or did they agree with Scripture and with us, that death is a haven of rest to the wearied souls of the faithful ; that they await their resurrection in peace, and joy ; and that they repose in the bosom of their Saviour and their God ? I am really at a loss how to select from the abundant evidence which the records of antiquity supply in confirmation of our doctrine, and in condemnation of yours. I shall however make the attempt.

I commence with Justin Martyr, who, near the beginning of his Dialogue with Trypho says, that “ all souls do not die,” but that, “ the souls of the pious remain in some BETTER PLACE, ἐν κρείττονι τοι χώρῳ, and the unrighteous and wicked in a worse place, expecting the time of judgment.” It is plain from this, that the doctrine of Purgatory was unknown



at that time, for it is impossible to regard as “a better place” a region where tortures of the most dreadful character are inflicted.

I next turn to the venerable Irenæus Bishop of Lyons, who was acquainted with the contemporaries of the Apostles. “The Lord,” he says, “taught in the fullest manner, that souls departing from the body—not only continue to exist without migrating from one body to another,—but to preserve the same bodily appearance, in that narrative concerning the rich man and Lazarus who was at rest in Abraham’s bosom, in which he saith that the rich man knew Lazarus after death, and Abraham likewise; and that each of them remained in his own order,” that is, in a place of suffering or of happiness, “and that he requested him to send Lazarus to aid him . . . For by this it is plainly declared that souls continue to exist, . . . and that *each people*,” i. e. the good and the bad, “receive a *fitting habitation* even before the day of judgment.” This is exactly our belief. We hold that the good receive reward, and the wicked punishment, immediately after this life.

Tertullian, in refuting the opinion of some persons who denied that the souls of the faithful descend into the region of departed spirits, remarks that they “proudly imagine that the souls of the faithful do not deserve it, as if servants were above

° Irenæus, adv. Hæres. lib. ii. cap. xxxiv. ed. Bened.

“ their Lord, and disciples above their master. “ They disdain perhaps to receive the consolation of “ *awaiting the resurrection in Abraham’s bosom*<sup>p</sup>. ” The faithful then, according to this Father, are in Abraham’s bosom, and at rest. And hence he held that “ We do an injury to Christ when we hear “ without equanimity that any have been called “ away by him, as if they *deserved commiseration*. “ ‘ I desire,’ said the Apostle, ‘ to be received “ presently, and to be with Christ<sup>q</sup>. ’ ” There was evidently no notion at that time, that the souls of the departed believers were consigned to tortures, surpassing all that can be endured in this life.

The language of the blessed Martyr St. Cyprian, is still more remarkable, and clearly establishes our faith against the error of Romanists. He consoles the faithful at Carthage under the awful visitation of a pestilence, in the following manner. “ Our “ country we believe to be Paradise: the Patriarchs “ we esteem to be our parents. Why then do we “ not speed and run, that we may behold our “ country, and salute our parents? There a great “ multitude of those who are dear to us, await us; “ a numerous and abundant crowd of parents, “ brethren, children, *already secure of their own*

<sup>p</sup> Qui satis superbè non putant animas fidelium inferis dignas, servi super dominum et discipuli super magistrum, aspernati si fortè in Abrahæ sinu, expectandæ resurrectionis solatium capere. Tertull. de Anima, cap. lv. p. 304. Oper. ed. Rigaltii.

<sup>q</sup> Tert. de Patientia, cap. ix. p. 145.

“ *salvation, yet still desirous of ours, desire us.*  
 “ *How great a joy for them and us in common to*  
 “ *behold and embrace them! What pleasure of*  
 “ *celestial kingdoms is there, without fear of death;*  
 “ *and with eternal life what great and perpetual*  
 “ *happiness! There is the glorious choir of the*  
 “ *Apostles; there the number of the rejoicing Pro-*  
 “ *phets . . . There are the merciful rewarded &c<sup>r</sup>.*”  
 Can any doubt remain after this, that the primitive Church believed the souls of the departed faithful to be in “the joy of their Lord;” and that they would have repelled with horror the notion, that they are consigned to torment, with the devil and his angels?

That the just and pious are reserved for torment after this life, was a doctrine wholly unknown to antiquity. The very writers who maintain that *sinner*s will be saved by sufferings after this life, never thought of consigning the *justified* to the same punishment. Origen himself was a stranger to such a doctrine: “The soul,” he says, “having  
 “ its own substance and life, *when it departs from*  
 “ *this world*, shall be disposed of according to its  
 “ merits, enjoying *the inheritance of eternal life and*  
 “ *happiness if its actions shall have obtained it*, or  
 “ delivered to eternal fire and punishments if the  
 “ guilt of its crimes have thrust it into them<sup>s</sup>.”

<sup>r</sup> Cyprianus, De Mortalitate.

<sup>s</sup> Origen. Præf. Lib. de principiis, tom. i. Oper. ed. Bened.  
 p. 48.

“ We have,” he elsewhere says, “ a great High-  
 “ Priest . . . who hath promised to those who  
 “ rightly learn divine things and *live according to*  
 “ *them*, that he will raise them to heavenly places,  
 “ for he saith, That where I am there ye may also  
 “ be. Therefore we hope, that *after the labours and*  
 “ *contests here below*, we shall *be in the highest*  
 “ *heavens* <sup>t</sup>.” Whenever, in short, this Father speaks  
 of the future destination of the righteous, he uses  
 exactly the same terms that we should do. He  
 never supposes them to be in any suffering what-  
 ever.

St. Methodius, Bishop of Pataræ A. D. 290, who  
 was remarkable for his opposition to the errors of  
 Origen, describes in the following terms the state of  
 the departed faithful. “ When this short transitory  
 “ life is dissolved, we SHALL HAVE OUR DWELLING  
 “ WITH GOD, EVEN BEFORE THE RESURRECTION,  
 “ until we receive again our habitation (the body)  
 “ renewed, and stable, and never to fall <sup>u</sup>.” It is  
 clear from this, that the Primitive Church believed  
 the souls of the just to be in happiness, for it would  
 be impious to imagine that any torment can ap-  
 proach those who “ dwell with God.”

The Apostolical Constitutions, which appear to  
 have been composed before the Council of Nice,  
 furnish another proof of the continuance of the

<sup>t</sup> Contra Celsum, lib. vi. tom. i. p. 145.

<sup>u</sup> Methodius, De Resurrectione, apud Photii Biblioth. Cod.  
 ccxxxiv. p. 921. ed. 1611.

orthodox doctrine on this subject. In a prayer we find the following passage; “The spirits of all the just are living with thee, and are in thine hand, *whom no torment shall touch*; for all that are sanctified are under thine hand<sup>x</sup>.” How little notion was there at that time in the Church, that the pious and just go forth from this life, into sufferings far exceeding any that can be endured in this world; into “misery,” “torments,” “punishments,”—nay, into the very fire prepared for the devil and his angels, “its eternity only being removed.”

The illustrious Confessor St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, is another witness against the doctrine of Purgatory. He remarks on the history of the rich man and Lazarus, “There is here no putting off or delay; for the day of judgment is the eternal retribution of blessedness or of punishment, but the time of death, in the meanwhile, imposeth laws on all, for (the bosom of) *Abraham, or punishment*, reserves every one to the judgment<sup>y</sup>.” That is, the righteous are in Abraham’s bosom, and the sinners are in punishment.

A discourse, attributed by some to Theophilus of

<sup>x</sup> Τῶν δικαίων τὰ πνεύματα ἐν τῇ χειρὶ σου εἰσὶν, ὧν οὐ μὴ ἄψηται βάσανος. Const. Apost. lib. viii. cap. xli.

<sup>y</sup> Nihil illic dilationis aut moræ est. Judiciæ enim dies vel beatitudinis retributio est æterna, vel pœnæ. Tempus verò mortis habet interim unumquemque suis legibus, dum ad judicium unumquemque aut Abraham reservat, aut pœna. Hilar. Pictav. in Ps. ii. Oper. p. 52. ed. Bened.



Alexandria, by others to Simeon Stylites<sup>z</sup>, in speaking of the just and the unjust when they die, says of the former, that his “soul goes forth in joy and  
 “exultation with the saints . . . and is brought into  
 “*a place of rest, into ineffable joy and perpetual*  
 “*light, where there is no grief, no groaning, nor*  
 “*weeping, no anxiety, but immortal life, and ever-*  
 “*lasting joy*<sup>a</sup>.” Of the unjust soul he says that  
 “it is seized by devils at the day of death, and led  
 “into an obscure, dark, and dismal place, where all  
 “the wicked are reserved *until the day of judgment*  
 “*and eternal condemnation*<sup>b</sup>.” He is thus evidently speaking of the intermediate state, and he considers the souls of the righteous to be at once in the enjoyment of happiness unmingled with any pain or evil.

Such too is the language of St. Basil. The moment of death is, according to him, the begin-

<sup>z</sup> Ceillier, Hist. des Auteurs Eccl. tom. xv. p. 439.

<sup>a</sup> Si anima virtutes hic egregias sibi asciverit, vitamque severam et honestam traduxerit; in die sui exitus, illæ ipsæ quas hic sibi comparavit virtutes eam comitantur, stipantque boni angeli, nec ab illo adversario eorum dæmone eam sinunt contingi. Verum in gaudio et exultatione cum sanctis proficiscitur, et angelis victoriæ hymnos concinentibus Deo . . . in quietis locum perducitur, in gaudium ineffabile, in lumen perpetuum; ubi non est mœror, nec gemitus, neque fletus, neque anxietas, sed vita immortalis et perennis lætitia. Bibl. Patr. Lugd. 1677, tom. vii. p. 1228.

<sup>b</sup> Eam occupant dæmones miseris modis lachrymantem . . . in loca obscura, tenebrosa, et tristia deducentes; ubi cuncti nocentes, ad diem judicii ac æternæ damnationis asservantur. Ibid.



ning of the believer's happiness : it leads not to torments, but to bliss. " If the dissolution of this " life," he says, " by which the soul is delivered " from the bondage of the flesh, is *the commence-* " *ment of true life* to those who live according to " God, why are we grieved, as if we had no hope<sup>c</sup>?" St. Gregory Nazianzen, the friend of Basil, still more distinctly confirms the truth in the following passage ; " I am persuaded by the words of the " wise, that every soul which is good and beloved " of God, when loosened from the bonds of the " flesh, it departs hence, *immediately feels and con-* " *templates the good which awaits it*, being purified " and delivered (I know not how to say it) from " what had darkened it ; and *enjoys a certain won-* " *drous pleasure, and rejoiceth, and joyfully goeth to* " *its Lord*, escaping from this life as from a " grievous prison, and shaking off the trammels " which had bound its wings of thought ; and " enjoys (as it does now in fancy) the happiness " laid up for it. But after a little it receives again " its native flesh . . . and with it enjoys heavenly " glory<sup>d</sup>." Such, according to this illustrious Father, is the state of the departed faithful. They are in the immediate enjoyment of happiness with God, in the contemplation of the glory into which they shall shortly enter.

<sup>c</sup> Basil. Epist. ci. Oper. tom. iii. p. 197. ed. Bened.

<sup>d</sup> Gregorius Nazianzenus, Orat. vii. al. x. tom. i. p. 212, 213. Oper. ed. Bened.

Hence, when the Fathers speak of the departed righteous, they never think of representing them as “struggling in tortures,” or as suffering “punishments.” Their words are full of rejoicing, of triumph, and of consolation. Thus Gregory Nazianzen says of his sister Gorgonia, “I well know that you *now* enjoy things more excellent than all that we can behold—the sound of feastings, the exultations of angels, the contemplation of glory, and a purer and more perfect illumination of the supreme Trinity<sup>e</sup>.” He speaks elsewhere of his Father Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzum, as being “*near to God*,” and as having “become possessed of the angelical order and boldness.”<sup>f</sup>

You have quoted, in support of the doctrine of Purgatory, some writings of St. Gregory Nyssene, which had been interpolated and corrupted by the Origenist heretics. His genuine belief was widely different from that which you have attributed to him. He believed that the souls of the righteous are, immediately after death, in a state of joy and glory. Thus in his Funeral Oration on Pulcheria, he consoles her mother, the Empress Placilla, in the following terms; “Therefore, although thy child hath left thee, she hath departed to the Lord. She hath closed her eyes to thee, but *opened them on eternal light*. She hath departed from thy table, but *hath been received at that of the angels*.”

<sup>e</sup> Orat. viii. al. xi. tom. i. p. 232.

<sup>f</sup> Orat. xviii. al. xix. tom. i. p. 332.

“ The plant hath been removed from this, but *hath*  
 “ *been planted in Paradise* : it hath changed *from one*  
 “ *kingdom to another* <sup>g</sup>.” In his Funeral Oration  
 on the Empress Placilla herself, he says : “ The  
 “ good we seek, brethren, still exists : it is not lost.  
 “ I speak less than the truth. That good not only  
 “ exists, but is *more exalted* than before. Do you  
 “ seek the Empress ? *She hath her dwelling in*  
 “ *regal mansions*. But do you desire to see her ?  
 “ You cannot behold her countenance. There is a  
 “ dreadful guard of angels around her<sup>h</sup>.”

I have already (p. 43) quoted the language of St. Ambrose in reference to the Emperor Theodosius. Similar expressions might be produced in abundance from his works, in proof of his belief that the souls of the departed righteous are in peace and joy. I shall merely cite a few of his words in speaking of the death of Acholius Bishop of Thessalonica. “ I know that he *now rests in heavenly*  
 “ *places . . . He now enjoys the perpetual reward of*  
 “ *his labours*, and the bonds of the flesh being dis-  
 “ solved, *is with Christ, amongst the ministering*  
 “ *angels . . . He is now an inhabitant of the regions*  
 “ *above, a possessor of the eternal city, of the Jeru-*  
 “ *salem which is in Heaven*<sup>i</sup>.” Nor is it to be supposed that St. Ambrose imagined these blessings to

<sup>g</sup> Gregorius Nyssen. In Funere Pulcheriæ Oratio, tom. iii. Oper. p. 517.

<sup>h</sup> Orat. in Funere Placillæ, tom. iii. p. 529.

<sup>i</sup> Ambros. Epist. xvi. t. ii. p. 819.

be reserved for the exclusive enjoyment of those who were of an eminent and surpassing sanctity. He believed them to be shared alike by all the righteous after death ; for in allusion to death, as being a dissolution of soul and body, he says, “ What is the meaning of that dissolution, but that “ the body is dissolved and remains at rest ; and “ the soul turns to its rest, and is free, *which, if it “ be pious, is with Christ*<sup>k</sup>.” He elsewhere says, “ Death is the passing of all things. It is a passing “ from corruption to incorruption . . . from *pertur- “ bation to tranquillity*<sup>l</sup>.” He therefore encourages us to depart from this life without apprehension. “ Let us go without fear to our Redeemer, Jesus “ Christ . . . to that assembly of the holy and just. “ For we shall go to our fathers, to those preceptors “ of our faith . . . where Abraham opens his holy “ bosom, where there is *a paradise of delight ; where “ there is no cloud, no thunderings*<sup>m</sup>,” &c. It is clear, therefore, that St. Ambrose believed, that all the just are received into happiness immediately after death.

That Prudentius was of the same opinion, appears from his placing the righteous in Abraham’s bosom, in a region of rest and enjoyment.

Sed dum resolvable corpus  
Revocas, Deus, atque reformas,

<sup>k</sup> Ambros. De Bono Mortis, cap. iii. tom. i. p. 392.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. cap. iv. p. 396.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. cap. xii. p. 411.

Quanam regione jubebis  
 Animam *requiescere* puram ?  
 Gremio senis abdita sancti  
 Recubabit, ut est Eleazar, (Lazarus)  
 Quem floribus undique septum  
 Dives procul aspicit ardens.  
 . . . . .  
 Patet ecce fidelibus ampli  
 Via lucida jam *paradisi* ;  
*Licet et nemus illud adire*  
*Homini, quod ademerat anguis* <sup>n</sup>.

St. John Chrysostom, in innumerable places, confirms the Catholic doctrine which we maintain. On those words, "Turn again then to thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath rewarded thee," he remarks: "You see then, that death is *a benefit*, *and a rest*, for he who hath entered into that rest, *hath rested from his works*, as God rested from his own °." "Lamentation becomes the wickedness of him [who dies at enmity with God], but not thee, who art about *to be crowned, and to be at rest* <sup>p</sup>." When consoling a friend for the loss of one whom he had loved, he says: "Think, *to whom he hath departed*; and receive consolation. *He is where Paul, where Peter, where all the choir of saints are* <sup>q</sup>." He tells a parent deprived of his child to think, that "he hath departed *to a better*

<sup>n</sup> Prudentius, Hymn. de Exequiis, Oper. tom. i. p. 362, 363. ed. Arevalo.

° Chrysost. Homil. de Bern. et Prosd. tom. ii. p. 639. Ed. Ben.

<sup>p</sup> Homil. xxxi. al. xxxii. in Matt. tom. vii. p. 361.

<sup>q</sup> Homil. in illud 'De dormientibus,' tom. i. p. 766.



“ *place*, and hath *gone to a more excellent seat* ; and  
 “ that he has not lost his son, but placed him in  
 “ security <sup>r</sup>.” “The righteous,” he says, “whether  
 “ they be *here* (on earth) or *there*, are *with the*  
 “ *King*, and there much more, and more nearly <sup>s</sup>.”  
 In speaking of funeral rites, he enquires : “ Do we  
 “ not glorify God, and *give thanks*, because he hath  
 “ *already crowned the departed* ; because he hath  
 “ delivered him from his labours ; because, ex-  
 “ pelling fear, he *hath him with himself* ? Are not  
 “ hymns and psalms sung on this account ? All  
 “ these things are signs of *rejoicing* <sup>t</sup>.”

Isidore of Pelusium, a disciple of Chrysostom, incidentally teaches the same doctrine, where he speaks of a certain person, “ having heard that that  
 “ wise man” (Ammonius Bishop of Pelusium)  
 “ had fallen asleep, *and been received into heavenly*  
 “ *places* <sup>u</sup>.” In another place, writing to Theophilus on the death of a Christian named Timotheus, he says, “ The blessed Timotheus, thy brother, hath  
 “ departed from men . . . *ascending to heaven* in his  
 “ soul ; and as I believe, *mingling with the exulta-*  
 “ *tions of the divine and heavenly powers* <sup>x</sup>.” St. Jerome, in his epitaph on Nepotianus, says that “ he  
 “ is *with Christ*, and *joined with the choir of the*

<sup>r</sup> Hom. i. in 2 Cor. tom. x. p. 426.

<sup>s</sup> Hom. iii. in Phil. tom. xi. p. 216.

<sup>t</sup> Hom. iv. in Hebr. tom. xii. p. 46.

<sup>u</sup> Isidorus Pelus. Epist. lib. ii. Ep. 127. p. 179. ed. Paris, 1638.

<sup>x</sup> Epist. cli. p. 197.



“ *saints* <sup>y</sup>. ” Of Lea who had lately died, he says :  
 “ For her short labour, *she now enjoys eternal*  
*“ felicity ; she is received by the choirs of angels,*  
*“ and cherished in Abraham’s bosom* <sup>z</sup>. ” In his  
 epitaph on Paula he says, that “ *she now enjoys*  
*“ those good things, ‘ which eye hath not seen, nor*  
*“ ear heard, nor hath entered into the heart of*  
*“ man* <sup>a</sup>. ” It is quite impossible that if St. Jerome  
 had held the doctrine of Purgatory, he could have  
 thus described the condition of the departed  
 righteous.

Although St. Augustine, in some parts of his  
 works speaks, with *doubt and hesitation*, of a fire  
 which shall save some of those who depart this life  
 in sins which are not of a very grievous nature, he,  
 nevertheless, constantly teaches, that the *just or*  
*righteous* are received into joy after the present life.  
 We have already seen some proofs of this (p. 48, 49).  
 He elsewhere maintains, that “ if, after the human  
 “ generation in Adam, a soul be regenerated in  
 “ Christ, and belongeth to his society, it will have  
 “ *rest* after the death of the body, and will receive  
 “ again the body unto glory. These things con-  
 “ cerning the soul, I most firmly hold <sup>b</sup>. ” “ All

<sup>y</sup> Hieron. Epist. xxxv. ad Heliodorum (al. iii.) tom. iv. pars ii.  
 p. 269. ed. Bened.

<sup>z</sup> Epist. xx. ad Marcellam (al. 24.) Ibid. p. 52.

<sup>a</sup> Epist. lxxxvi. ad Eustoch. (al. 27.) Ibid. p. 688.

<sup>b</sup> Augustinus, De Origine animæ hominis, Epist. clxvi. (al. 28.)  
 tom. ii. Oper. p. 585.

“souls,” he says, “have, when they depart from  
 “this life, their different receptions. THE GOOD  
 “HAVE JOY; the evil, torments. But when the  
 “resurrection shall have taken place, THE JOY OF  
 “THE GOOD WILL BE GREATER, and the torments of  
 “the wicked more grievous, because they will be  
 “tortured with the body. *The holy Patriarchs,*  
 “*Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs,* AND THE GOOD AND  
 “FAITHFUL, HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN PEACE; *yet*  
 “*all* are yet to receive, at the end, what God hath  
 “promised . . . *The rest which is given immediately*  
 “*after death,* is then received by every one who  
 “deserves it, when he dies. The Patriarchs re-  
 “ceived it first: behold how long is their rest:  
 “afterwards the Prophets received it: more re-  
 “cently the Apostles; still more lately the holy  
 “Martyrs: and now every day, *good believers*.”  
 According to St. Augustine, therefore, the departed  
 righteous are with the Prophets, Apostles, and

° Habent ergò omnes animæ . . . cùm de sæculo exierint diver-  
 sas receptiones suas: habent gaudium bonæ, malæ tormenta.  
 Sed cùm facta fuerit resurrectio, et bonorum gaudium amplius  
 erit, et malorum tormenta graviora: quando cum corpore tor-  
 quebuntur. Recepti sunt in pace sancti Patriarchæ, Prophetæ,  
 Apostoli, Martyres, boni fideles, omnes tamen adhuc in fine  
 accepturi sunt quod promisit Deus . . . Requiem quæ continuò  
 post mortem datur, si eâ dignus est, tunc accipit quisque cum  
 moritur. Priores acceperunt Patriarchæ: videte ex quo requiescunt:  
 posteriores Prophetæ; recentius Apostoli, multò recentiores sancti  
 Martyres, quotidie boni fideles. August. Tract. xlix. in Joan.  
 tom. iii. pars ii. p. 623. ed. Bened.

Martyrs ; and consequently, are in a state of joy, and suffer no torment or evil whatever.

I must pass over various other proofs from this eminent Father, and proceed to adduce the clear and satisfactory language of St. Cyril of Alexandria. “ The Evangelist probably said designedly and “ necessarily, not simply that he (our Lord) ‘died,’ “ but that he ‘commended his spirit,’ i. e. to the “ Father, according to what was said by him : “ ‘ Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit ;’ “ and the force of this language laid the commence- “ ment and foundation of a good hope for us. For “ I think it should be held, and very reasonably “ too, that the souls of the holy, when they “ are departing from their earthly bodies, are “ ‘commended into the hands’ of a most dear “ Father, through the goodness and mercy of God ; “ and are not, as some of the unbelieving have “ thought, waiting amidst the tombs, expecting “ sepulchral rites ; nor like the souls of sinners, “ are thrust into a place of immense *punishment*, “ that is, into Hell ; but rather hasten away into “ the hands of the Father of all, and of Jesus “ Christ our Saviour, who hath restored this way “ to us. For he delivered his soul into his Father’s “ hands, that we also might have glorious hopes, “ firmly thinking and believing that *when we have “ suffered bodily death, we shall be in the hands of “ God, and in a far better state than when we were in “ the flesh.* Wherefore the wise Paul writeth to us,

“ ‘I wish to be dissolved, and to be with Christ<sup>d</sup>.’ ”  
 “ Formerly, indeed, human souls, having put off  
 “ their bodies, were cast into subterranean prisons,  
 “ and filled the receptacles of death therein ; but  
 “ after that Christ commended his Spirit to his  
 “ Father, he hath changed this way for us. For  
 “ now we do not descend to Hell, but rather shall  
 “ follow him ; and committing our souls to him as  
 “ a faithful Creator, *we shall live for a while in good*  
 “ *hope*, for Christ shall at length raise us all<sup>e</sup>. ”

Julian Pomerius, a learned presbyter of the fifth century<sup>f</sup>, remarks, that our “ contest is at an end  
 “ when, after this life, certain victory succeeds to  
 “ contest ; that all the soldiers of Christ who,  
 “ through God’s assistance, have indefatigably re-  
 “ sisted their enemies to the end of this present  
 “ life, *may reign in joy in their own country*, after  
 “ their laborious pilgrimage is at an end<sup>g</sup>. ” The  
 author of the works attributed to St. Dionysius  
 the Areopagite, which were much approved in the  
 Church, and were composed about the fifth century,  
 says, that the pious “ coming to the end of his  
 “ contests in this life, is filled with holy rejoicing,  
 “ and with exceeding happiness enters on the path-

<sup>d</sup> Cyril. Alexandrinus, Comment. in Joan. lib. xii. p. 1069.  
 tom. iv. Oper. ed. Aubert.

<sup>e</sup> De Recta Fide, tom. v. Oper. pars ii. p. 176.

<sup>f</sup> See Ceillier, tom. xv. p. 451.

<sup>g</sup> Julian. Pomerius De Vita Contemplativa, lib. i. cap. i. (attributed to Prosper of Aquitaine.)

“ way of his resurrection<sup>h</sup>.” He adds, that the just go to Abraham’s bosom, which he thinks “ is the “ divine and happy lot of the blessed Patriarchs, “ and of all other saints, which receives all those “ who resemble God into perpetual and most “ happy perfection therein<sup>i</sup>.” A work attributed to Justin Martyr, but which seems to have been written also in the fifth century, furnishes another evidence of the prevalence of sound doctrine. “ After the departure of souls from the body, the just “ are immediately separated from the unjust ; for “ they are brought by the angels to their fitting “ places. *And the souls of the just are brought to “ Paradise, where they enjoy the converse and view of “ the angels and archangels,* and even that of our “ Saviour Christ himself, by vision, according to “ that which was said, ‘ We are absent from the “ body and present with the Lord<sup>j</sup>.’ ”

Aretas, Bishop of Cæsarea in Cappadocia, in the Sixth Century, says, that “ the souls which *are at rest in the bosom of Abraham,* are deservedly happy in the hope of those (heavenly) things which are contemplated by the intellect as in a glass ; for it has been said by many of the saints, that *every good man is allotted a fitting place,* whence also he may form a certain conjecture of his future glory<sup>k</sup>.

<sup>h</sup> Dionys. Areop. Eccl. Hier. cap. vii. p. 141. Oper. ed. 1615.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. p. 147.

<sup>j</sup> Quæst. et Resp. ad Orthodox. Qu. lxxv.

<sup>k</sup> Aretas, Comment. in cap. vi. Apocalyps.



St. Eligius, Bishop of Noyon in the seventh century, taught the same doctrine; “that when the soul is severed from the body, it is *immediately*, according to its merits, *placed in Paradise*; or certainly, for its sins, is precipitated into Hell<sup>1</sup>.” St. Theophylact affirms, that “*the souls of the just are in the hand of God*; but those of the wicked are carried hence like that of the rich man<sup>m</sup>.”

In addition to these evidences of the Church’s belief in reference to the blessedness of the departed faithful, it would be easy to produce abundant authorities in opposition to the notions on which the doctrine of Purgatory is based—to shew that it was not believed that any penalties, whether temporal or eternal, await the righteous after this life; or that any sins can be remitted after death.

The illustrious Confessor, St. Fulgentius, Bishop of Ruspa, in commenting on Matt. xxi. 32. 36, “It shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in the world to come,” entirely subverts the foundation on which the doctrine of Purgatory is built. “By these words,” he says, “our Lord and Saviour *did not intimate that any sins will be forgiven in the world to come, which have not been forgiven in this world*, but shews to those who rightly understand, that no other sins will be forgiven in the future world, but those only which,

<sup>1</sup> Eligius, De rectitud. Catholic. Conversationis, inter Augustini Opera, tom. vi. Append. col. 274.

<sup>m</sup> Theophylact. Comment. in Matt. viii.



“ *in this world*, have been forgiven in the true  
 “ Catholic Church. For to her alone did the Lord  
 “ give the power of binding and loosing, saying, ‘ I  
 “ will give thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven,’  
 “ &c. Whatever, therefore, the holy Church hath  
 “ not loosed in this world, shall remain so indis-  
 “ soluble, that it cannot by any means be loosed in  
 “ the future world<sup>n</sup>. ”

St. Gregory Nazianzen directly and formally denies that there is any Purgatory in the next life. After speaking of the scourges by which God purifies men in this life, he adds : “ It is better to be  
 “ chastised and *purged* now, (in life) than to be  
 “ delivered to that torture (after death) ; since then  
 “ shall be the time of punishment, NOT OF EX-  
 “ PURGATION<sup>o</sup>. ” St. John Chrysostom says that  
 “ *the fire shall not hurt* the soul which is pure<sup>p</sup>. ”

In fine, the Fathers condemn the doctrine that any punishments are due to remitted sins. “ When  
 “ the guilt is removed,” says Tertullian, “ the  
 “ punishment is so likewise<sup>q</sup>. ” “ Where there is  
 “ grace there is remission,” says Chrysostom ; “ where

<sup>n</sup> Hoc verbo Dominus et salvator noster non aliqua peccata insinuavit futuro sæculo dimittenda, quæ in hoc sæculo dimissa non fuerint, &c. Fulgentius, De Remissione Peccatorum, lib. i. cap. 24.

<sup>o</sup> Orat. xvi. tom. i. p. 304, 305.

<sup>p</sup> Hom. viii. De Pœnitentia, tom. ii. p. 320.

<sup>q</sup> Exempto scilicet reatu, eximitur et pœna. Tertull. De Baptismo, cap. v. p. 226. ed. Rigaltii.

“ there is remission, there is *no punishment*<sup>r</sup>.” Augustine enquires, “ Why is it said, ‘ thy sins are covered?’ It is, that *they may not be seen*. For “ why was God to see sins, unless to punish them<sup>s</sup>.”

“ *What,*” says Fulgentius, “ do we suppose “ cannot be remitted to us, when the Lord ‘ par- “ dons all our iniquities?’ What do we imagine “ cannot be healed in us, when the Lord ‘ healeth “ all our infirmities?’ Or how can he who is “ healed and *justified* be in want of any thing, when “ he is ‘ satisfied with good things?’ Or how can “ it be supposed that he does not enjoy the benefit “ of *complete remission*, who is ‘ crowned with mercy “ and loving-kindness ‘?’ ”

St. Bernard says: “ He so wholly pardoned, “ and so liberally forgave every injury, that he now “ does not condemn *by revenging*, nor confounds by “ upbraiding, nor loves less by imputing. Some “ there are who forgive injury so as not to revenge “ it, but still they upbraid. Others there are who “ are silent, though somewhat remains deeply rooted “ in their minds, and they retain inward rancour. “ In neither case is there a full pardon. Far from “ these is the benignant nature of the Godhead.

<sup>r</sup> Ὅπου γὰρ χάρις, συγχώρησις· ὅπου δὲ συγχώρησις, οὐδεμία κόλασις. Hom. viii. in Epist. ad Rom. tom. ix. p. 502.

<sup>s</sup> Tecta ergo peccata quare dixit? Ut non viderentur. Quid enim erat Dei videre peccata, nisi punire peccata? August. Enarrat. ii. in Ps. xxxi. tom. iv.

<sup>t</sup> Fulgentius, Epist. vii. ad Venantiam, De Pœnitentia. Bibl. Patr.

“ HE ACTS WITH LIBERALITY: HE FORGIVES ENTIRELY<sup>u</sup>. ”

Surely such a doctrine is calculated to inspire hope, and consolation, and gratitude to God. We hold that when God forgives the justified sinner, he forgives ENTIRELY. He reserves no torments. He entertains no “wrath.” He seeks for no “re-venging tortures.” He receives the trembling and unprofitable outcast into his bosom, and clothes him with garments of joy. He may require works of repentance, and may impose afflictions before he justifies the sinner; but justification and sanctification infer the cessation of all *wrath*, and a full satisfaction of *Divine justice*. The just have therefore nothing to fear from God’s justice, while they continue in a state of justification. They have nothing to dread from it in this world or beyond the grave.

The holy Scriptures, and the united voice of Catholic tradition, confirm this doctrine. They proclaim rest, and peace, and joy to the departed faithful, even from the moment in which the soul departs from the body. The opinions of one or two individual writers in the fifth or sixth centuries, cannot have any weight against such authority.

I shall only add, in conclusion, that the Catholic Church has never defined the doctrine of Purgatory, or by any formal act expressed her belief in it; for the Council of Florence was not Œcumenical, having

<sup>u</sup> Bernard. Serm. De Fragmentis, col. 300. Oper. ed. Paris. 1586.

been held when the rival, and more numerous Council of Basle was sitting; and accordingly its authority is doubtful even amongst Romanists; besides which, it has always been rejected by the Eastern Church. And as for the Council of Trent, it was not only rejected by a great portion of the West, and by the whole Eastern Churches; but it does not even represent *the judgment of the Roman Churches*; inasmuch as its decrees were received on a blind principle of obedience, without examination or discussion. This I have endeavoured to shew in my Treatise on the Church, (vol. ii. p. 237, &c.) I therefore deny that its decrees are binding on Romanists; and I now invite you to prove, if you can, that the Roman Clergy are bound to receive its decisions as *de fide*, except by the *discipline* of their Church, which imposes on its Clergy the Profession of Faith of Pope Pius IV.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

WILLIAM PALMER.

*Oxford, Nov. 26th, 1841.*

*Preparing for Publication.*

LETTER VII.—ON INDULGENCES.





A  
SEVENTH LETTER

TO  
N. WISEMAN, D.D.

ON THE  
DOCTRINE OF INDULGENCES.

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BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.  
OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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OXFORD,  
JOHN HENRY PARKER;  
G. F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.

1842.



A

SEVENTH LETTER,

&c.

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§ 1. *Practical influence of Indulgences amongst Romanists.*

SIR,

COMPARATIVELY few of those who receive or dispute the doctrine of Indulgences, are aware of the profound influence which it exercises in the Communion of the Church of Rome. I have already stated that works of piety and charity are made to depend very much on Indulgences<sup>a</sup>; but this subject is of so much importance, and is so closely connected with a vast mass of abuses and superstitions of various kinds, that it merits a more extended examination.

An Indulgence, according to Romanists, is a remission of the penalties due to remitted sin either in this life or in Purgatory; and it is obtained by performing certain conditions prescribed by the authority which grants the Indulgence. Thus much may suffice at present, in order to enable us to comprehend the working of the system, which shall be considered under various heads.

<sup>a</sup> Letter i. p. 29, &c.

I. PRIVILEGED ALTARS. The following description is given by the learned Thiers of the origin and uses of annexing Indulgences to attendance at particular Altars—a practice which he considers more recent than the Council of Trent. “The first notion apparently came from some mendicant Monk, who judging that this devotion could not be indifferent to his convent, solicited its establishment, or caused it to be solicited, at Rome . . . . He there procured a Brief for a privileged altar, for which he obtained the approbation of his Ordinary, who was perhaps an accommodating and obliging person. He then had it printed, posted up, and published everywhere; caused tablets to be made, with the inscription PRIVILEGED ALTAR in large letters; set them above the altar designed for Indulgences; on the doors of his church; and over the principal gate of his convent; caused the bells to ring and chime in an extraordinary manner; sent billets to every house; confessors invited devotees to the ceremony; the office was solemnly performed, the church magnificently adorned, and the *privileged altar* above all; the Indulgences were proclaimed; the people came in crowds to gain them, confessed, communicated, *and asked for masses at the privileged altar*; the monks who had previously been poor, had something to spare; the community was augmented to dispose of this; in a word, they derived advantage from this new invention.

“Nothing more was requisite to excite the holy

jealousy of other mendicants . . . . They wrote, sent, solicited at the Court of Rome, and at length obtained them . . . . From the churches of the mendicants they passed to those of the other regulars ; thence to some of the estated Monks, to parishes, to Collegiate and even Cathedral churches. It was perceived that they brought masses to the mendicants, and that the *payments for these masses* were a great assistance in supporting communities. Other regulars judged that this was a method not to be neglected : they, like the mendicants, set up titles of *privileged altars* ; some even went beyond these titles, and added, HERE A SOUL IS DELIVERED FROM PURGATORY AT EVERY MASS, and others, while mass was said at their privileged altars (especially from the Consecration to the end of the Communion) let off *little fire-works* in the rear, in order to mark that at this moment a soul went out of Purgatory straight into Heaven ! This I have seen practised in a celebrated church, and all Paris might have seen it as well as me.

“As there are always some Monks in monasteries, some Priests in parishes, some Canons or Chaplains in Collegiate and Cathedral churches, who have a little more skill than others to insinuate themselves into the minds of worthy people, who also know the rubrics and ceremonies, how to dress altars, to make bouquets of flowers, to clean and fold the ornaments, and to ring the bells better than others, they are usually charged with the Sacristy, the Register,

and the *Mass-account* ; and in order to deserve well of their communities . . . one of their first cares is, to have a chapel dedicated to some new Saint ; a new relic ; or some extraordinary Image ; but particularly *a privileged altar, in order to make masses come to the Sacristy*, under pretext of gaining Indulgences and delivering souls from Purgatory. The more sensible and enlightened communities, parishes, and chapters pretend not to perceive these spiritual artifices, and when they are spoken to with a view to stop their course, or at least to banish the abuses and superstitions which are but too frequently met in them, they reply with an indifferent tone and in a negligent manner, ‘That they have nothing to do with such matters ; that it is Father this, or Mr. that, who has the care of it ; that they let him alone, do not wish to annoy him—that he intends well, and that his only object is to engage good persons in practices of piety.’

“They have however, no objection that their Sacristies should profit by the emoluments which arise from this, and to see themselves thus relieved from the expense of providing for the ornaments, lights, and repairs of their churches. This is the utility of privileged Altars<sup>b</sup>.”

Such is one specimen of the practical working of the system of Indulgences. It brings large pecuniary profits to particular Churches ; and it therefore becomes a matter of great importance to the

<sup>b</sup> J. B. Thiers, *Traité des Superstitions*, Liv. vii. ch. xviii.



clergy, to obtain the annexation of Indulgences to the highest possible amount to attendance in their churches. Accordingly there seems to be a continual struggle to outbid each other in the number and variety of Indulgences.

II. PRIVILEGED CHURCHES. The same object is also attained by procuring the annexation of Indulgences to attendance at particular churches. Rodriguez, according to Thiers, states that there are so many Indulgences at the Church of St. John Lateran at Rome, that "God alone could count them." It appears from this writer and from the Jesuit Santarel, that the churches at Rome have generally extensive Indulgences annexed to them ; and Thiers adds, that the greater part of the religious orders, and regular congregations, as well as many confraternities, enjoy all these Indulgences<sup>c</sup>: Thiers mentions many instances of such Indulgences annexed to particular churches elsewhere, which are, of course, as beneficial as privileged altars to the pecuniary interests of the Clergy.

III. CONFRATERNITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS. The Roman Church authorizes an infinite multitude of voluntary associations of individuals for various purposes, connected more or less with religious or Ecclesiastical objects, and rewards their members by the grants of Indulgences. This system is entirely unknown in the English and the Oriental Churches, as it was also in the primitive ages. Its efficiency

<sup>c</sup> J. B. Thiers, Liv. vii. ch. xiii.

however is so unquestionable, that no association for any religious purpose, however good, is ever formed amongst Romanists, which does not speedily seek for Indulgences as necessary to its success.

Thus for example, in 1822 an Association was formed at Lyons “for the propagation of the Faith,” with a view to aid Missionaries in foreign countries by their prayers and pecuniary subscriptions. One would have thought that these objects would alone have been sufficient to engage the co-operation of all pious and sincere members of that Communion ; and that all that was necessary was to recommend it to general attention on motives of Christian charity and of contributing to the glory of God. This was not sufficient : it would have been inoperative without the aid of the system we are now considering. “Pius VII,” says Bouvier, “regarded this institution as salutary, *and in order to encourage it*, he granted to it, in 1823, the following *Indulgences*, &c.<sup>d</sup>”

Thus again, the Confraternity of the Holy Sacrament, established for the purpose of paying respect to the holy Eucharist, and of providing the necessary ornaments, and supplying lamps to burn in the churches, of attending the Sacrament in procession through the streets, assisting at certain ceremonies with torches, and performing various acts in honour of the Eucharist, was not only approved by Paul III. in 1539, but *Indulgences* were annexed to all the

<sup>d</sup> Bouvier, *Traité des Indulgences*, p. 361, 362.

particular actions which its members were to perform<sup>e</sup>.

Again, if it be thought desirable to institute catechizing under any improved system, like that invented by Ollier curé of St. Sulpice in the seventeenth century, *Indulgences* are obtained for all who attend such instructions, and receive Confirmation and Communion<sup>f</sup>.

Confraternities are also established for aiding poor persons during pilgrimages, for honouring the name of God, and of Jesus Christ, for supporting hospitals, for giving marriage portions to poor young women, for aiding the poor and infirm, for visiting poor lunatics, for offering certain prayers every month and providing for the burial of poor persons, for instructing the ignorant in church every Sunday, for ransoming captives, &c.<sup>g</sup> All these associations are indebted to Indulgences for no small portion of their success. There is scarcely a charitable institution, or a good work of any kind to which they are not annexed.

IV. DEVOTIONS. This is closely connected with the preceding branch of our subject, for multitudes of Confraternities are established especially with a view to promote the practice of certain devotions or religious exercises. Thus the Confraternity of the Rosary is established for the purpose of repeating the Rosary in honour of the blessed Virgin, visiting

<sup>e</sup> Bouvier, p. 317, 318.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. p. 363, 364.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. p. 325, &c.

the altars dedicated to its honour, especially on the festivals of the Virgin, hearing hymns in her honour, causing others to recite the Rosary, &c. It has been continually enriched with new Indulgences by the various Popes<sup>h</sup>.

The Confraternity of the Scapular which is instituted in honour of the Virgin, and the members of which carry on their persons a piece of blessed cloth (called Scapular), to the possession of which various spiritual privileges are annexed, have also innumerable Indulgences for receiving this cloth; pronouncing the name of Jesus; assisting at religious processions; visiting devoutly the chapels of the Confraternity; reciting the little office of the Virgin, with acts of contrition; repeating Litanies containing invocations of Saints; repeating the Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria seven times a-day in honour of the Virgin, &c. &c.<sup>i</sup>

In like manner the Confraternities for the perpetual adoration of the Sacrament<sup>k</sup>; for the honour of the holy Virgin of Help<sup>l</sup>; for worshipping the heart of Jesus and of Mary; for offering the prayers of the "holy hour" every Thursday<sup>m</sup>; for promoting certain religious exercises in colleges under the direction of the Jesuits<sup>n</sup>; and for worshipping and invoking particular Saints, such as St. John Baptist, St. Joseph, the Twelve Apostles, St. Bene-

<sup>h</sup> Bouvier, p. 292, &c.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. p. 323.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. p. 339.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. p. 301, &c.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. p. 325.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. p. 349.

dict, St. Roch, the Holy Angels, &c. &c.,<sup>o</sup> are all supported by Indulgences.

But besides this, if it be thought desirable to promote and encourage any new prayer or act of worship of God or of the Saints, the mode adopted is to annex Indulgences to the practice. All the superstitious worship of the Saints is upheld by this means, as well as many other rites which are more or less tolerable or exceptionable. Such as, acts of worship to the *hearts* of Jesus and Mary<sup>p</sup>; the repetition of prayers to the Virgin when the bell sounds<sup>q</sup>; the repetition of the Gloria Patri, of the Ave Maria<sup>r</sup>, of ejaculations to the Eucharist; visiting the Eucharist; kneeling at the elevation of the Host; walking in procession after the same; repetitions of hymns in honour of the Eucharist; invoking the names of Jesus and Mary and Joseph; praying before a crucifix; repeating Paters and Aves for the dead; Litanies and prayers to the Virgin and Saints and Angels; the dedication of the month of May to the Virgin, &c. &c.<sup>s</sup> Ecclesiastics are rewarded with Indulgences for saying prayers<sup>t</sup>; Monks and Nuns for taking the vows, and entering on Retreats<sup>u</sup>; the Laity for discharging their religious duties. The whole frame of religion depends to a great extent on Indulgences.

<sup>o</sup> Bouvier, p. 368.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid. p. 209.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. p. 215—261.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid. p. 266.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. p. 203.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid. p. 215.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. p. 263.



In addition to this, there are innumerable Indulgences attached to the use of Rosaries, beads, medals, &c. with the repetition of a prescribed number of Paters and Aves in honour of our Lord, “of His five wounds,” of His “blood,” of the “Sacred heart.” There are ordinary chaplets of the Virgin; blessed Crosses and medals; Brigittine chaplets; Indulged chaplets Brigittized, &c.; to all of which Indulgences are annexed<sup>x</sup>, and the use of which depends mainly on the doctrine under consideration.

V. GOOD WORKS. Not only acts of religious devotion to the Saints and to God are approved by the grants of Indulgences, but also various works of charity, piety, or utility; such as resignation to the will of God<sup>y</sup>, prayer for the dying, teaching Christian doctrine, mental prayer<sup>z</sup>, visiting prisoners, almsgiving, &c. Amongst such works, to which Indulgences have been applied, may be further mentioned, crusades against infidels and heretics, or the payment of sums of money in aid of such objects. From this source the Pontiffs derived large profits during the middle ages<sup>a</sup>. The erection of churches

<sup>x</sup> See these Indulgences in Bouvier, p. 160—200.

<sup>y</sup> Bouvier, p. 235.

<sup>z</sup> Ibid. p. 211.

<sup>a</sup> Ibid. p. 16. Fleury, Discours vi. sur l'Histoire Eccl. § 2, 6; Tournely, De Pœnit. tom. ii. p. 308. “Do I mean to say that during the middle ages and later, no abuse took place in the practice of Indulgences? Most certainly not. *Flagrant and too frequent* abuses doubtless occurred through the *avarice*, and *ra-*



and convents, or contributions for their erection, is another subject of Indulgences<sup>b</sup>; and without doubt, many of the splendid churches erected under the Papal dominion, and especially St. Peter's itself, were built with the funds derived from Indulgences. The erection of *bridges* and other useful buildings is also considered a sufficient reason to induce the grant of Indulgences.

In fine, pilgrimages to Rome at the Jubilee for the purpose of visiting the principal churches are encouraged by the grant of Indulgences<sup>c</sup>. Up to the period of the Reformation the same privileges might be obtained by *pecuniary payments* in lieu of actual visitation of the city of Rome<sup>d</sup>, but from the time of the Council of Trent those privileges have been extended to other Churches without payment<sup>e</sup>.

Thus much may suffice to shew how vast is the practical importance of the question now before us. I do not say that Indulgences form the *sole* motive to all religious acts in Romanism; but it is perfectly in vain to deny, with these facts before us, that they

*pacify*, and *impiety*, of men; especially when Indulgence was granted to the contributors towards charitable or religious foundations." Wiseman, Controv. Lect. ii. 88. It appears from Amort, Theologia, tom. xv. p. 229, that the Indulgence of the Crusade is still in force in Spain, and is productive of pecuniary advantages.

<sup>b</sup> Bouvier, p. 27. Tournely, De Pœnit. tom. ii. p. 302. Bellarmin. de Indulg. lib. i. c. 12.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 370, &c.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. p. 380.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.

constitute a great and most important motive to such acts. If they do not, then why is it, that acts and practices in themselves most laudable, or most necessary, or most immediately resulting from the principles of Christian piety or charity, cannot subsist without Indulgences? Bouvier Bishop of Mans says that “the prospect of *Indulgences* engages the faithful to frequent the Sacraments, to be more watchful over themselves, to correct their faults, and to live better. It is this which the Roman Pontiffs *ordinarily* propose to themselves in the numerous grants of Indulgences which they are continually making, and especially in the solemnities of the jubilee<sup>f</sup>.” So influential, indeed, are Indulgences on the practice of Romanists, that they have been and are still absolutely overrun with forged and spurious Indulgences. Their writers have found it necessary to expose the falsity of numbers of grants<sup>g</sup>. Their Chief Authorities have been obliged to suppress them in large masses<sup>h</sup>. Their bishops are obliged to be on their guard, and to watch narrowly lest spurious Indulgences should be put forward<sup>i</sup>. Everything,

<sup>f</sup> See Bouvier, p. 27.

<sup>g</sup> Thiers spends two hundred and fifty pages of his work in shewing that multitudes of Indulgences generally received in the Roman Communion are spurious or null. *Traité des Superstit.* tom. iv. liv. vii.

<sup>h</sup> Bouvier, p. 38; Amort, *De Indulgentiis*, Disp. vii. p. 242. tom. xv. *Theologiæ*; Thiers, *Traité des Superstitions*, lib. vii. c. 2.

<sup>i</sup> *Benedict.* xiv. *De Synodo Diœces.* L. xiii. c. 18; Bouvier, p. 36, &c.

in short, proclaims the vast practical influence of the system of Indulgences.

In truth, if we consider what the doctrine of Romanists really is, we shall see immediately the reasons which must induce them most eagerly to desire Indulgences, and most zealously to practise all the works to which they are annexed. You hold, then, that after the guilt and eternal punishment of sin is removed by the sacrament of Penance, temporal penalties still remain due to the Divine *justice* either in this world or in the next. You believe that the afflictions of life are part of this temporal penalty; that Christians are bound to spend their lives in painful voluntary penances in order to satisfy God; that after this life, punishments of the most horrible description are to complete the amount of suffering not discharged in this life; that the justified soul is perhaps for thousands of years still subject to the wrath and justice of God, and suffering tortures far exceeding any that can be endured in this life. With such opinions, Indulgences, which remit a portion or the whole of this temporal punishment, must of course become the objects of most intense desire; and as your writers contrive very ingeniously to render it doubtful, whether in any particular case, the Indulgence has been really and certainly attained<sup>k</sup>, the consequence is, that Romanists are bound by their own principles to continue during their whole lives, the

<sup>k</sup> See above, Letter iii. p. 7, 8.

labour to attain Indulgences, in the hope that some may at last be really placed to their account, and may thus diminish the tortures of Purgatory.

Another motive to the acquisition of Indulgences is, that they are, in general, made *applicable to the dead*<sup>1</sup>; so that the living may, by performing certain works, to which Indulgences are annexed, obtain relief for their departed friends and relatives, who are supposed to be enduring tortures in Purgatory. This is without doubt a most powerful motive, and combined with what has been already said, will sufficiently shew the extreme desire which Romanists must have to obtain Indulgences, and the strength of the motive which must influence them to perform works to which Indulgences are annexed.

## § 2. *The Romish Doctrine of Indulgences refuted.*

We are now to consider the basis on which all this system depends—the doctrine of Indulgences and its proofs. I shall avail myself without scruple of your statement of that doctrine, because it is strictly in harmony with the general belief of Romanists.

An Indulgence then is: “A remission by the Church in virtue of the *keys*, or the judicial authority committed to her, of a portion, or the entire, of the *temporal punishment* due to sin. The infinite

<sup>1</sup> Bouvier, p. 70, &c.

merits of Christ form the fund from whence this remission is derived : but besides, the Church holds that by the Communion of Saints, penitential works performed by the just, beyond what their sins might exact, are available to other members of Christ's mystical body<sup>m</sup>."

I. It is plain that this doctrine depends entirely on the supposition, that temporal penalties remain due to the divine justice for remitted sin ; for if no such penalties are to be endured,<sup>r</sup> Indulgences with the object of averting them, must be wholly useless and absurd. Now it has been already shewn, that there is no proof that God exacts any penalties of the kind under the Christian dispensation<sup>n</sup>; and that so far from any debt still remaining due to His justice after sin has been remitted, and the sinner justified ; the Roman Church herself holds, that a state of *justification* implies the closest union with God, and acceptance into His favour and love ; and consequently the previous satisfaction of all claims of His justice<sup>o</sup>; for it would be impossible to imagine for a moment, that God could receive to His love,

<sup>m</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. 71 ; Ligorio, Theologia Moralis, lib. vi. n. 531 ; Tournely, de Pœnit. tom. ii. p. 251 ; Bel-larmin. de Indulgentiis, lib. i. c. 1 ; Bouvier, de Pœnitentia, p. 290 ; Trevern, Discuss. Amic. tom. ii. p. 232 ; Faith of Catholics, p. 349 ; Milner, End of Controv. Lett. xlii ; Hornyhold, Real Principles of Cath. p. 278 ; Walenburch. Controv. tom. ii. p. 20 ; Amort, Theol. Mor. tom. xv. p. 1.

<sup>n</sup> Letter ii. p. 15, &c.

<sup>o</sup> Wiseman, p. 39, Letter vi. p. 16, 17.



those against whom His justice had still heavy demands, and who were still subject to His wrath. The union of the justified with God, and the rich graces which they receive from Him, prove beyond all doubt that He is fully reconciled to them, and that His justice has no further demands. And this being the case, Indulgences (in the Romish sense) must be useless and pernicious impostures.

II. I cannot but remark on the almost incredible blindness of those who attempt to prove the Romish doctrine of Indulgences from Scripture, to the fact, that their own doctrine is entirely subversive of the attempt.

You yourself argue with many others<sup>p</sup>, that the power of granting Indulgences or *remissions of temporal penalties*, “is included in the commission given by Christ to His Apostles to forgive or retain sins<sup>q</sup>.”

But you forget, that according to the doctrine of the Council of Trent, and of all your writers, temporal penalties remain due, after sin is remitted by virtue of the authority here conferred. You forget that you have yourself asserted, that “upon this *forgiveness of sins*,” authorized by the above passage, “that is, after the remission of that eternal debt, which God by His justice awards to transgressions against His law, He has been pleased to *reserve* a

<sup>p</sup> Contr. Lect. ii. 72 : Trevern, Discuss. Amicale, tom. ii. p. 227.

<sup>q</sup> John xx. 23.



certain degree of inferior or *temporary punishment*<sup>r</sup>;" and you seem to forget that this very principle is the *basis* on which the necessity of Satisfactions or Penances, the belief in Purgatory, and even the doctrine of Indulgences itself, are built. But observe, that if this principle be true and sound, the Church cannot have the power of remitting temporal penalties, because they remain due *after* her power of remission conferred in Holy Scripture has been exercised; and consequently, Indulgences, in your sense, are impostures. On the other hand, if the power of remitting sin given in Holy Scripture *does* include the power of removing its temporal penalties, there are no temporal penalties due to *remitted* sin; and consequently Penances for *remitted* sins are worse than superfluous; and Indulgences, with the view of remitting such penalties, are equally fallacious and absurd.

The same observations are applicable to the other texts from which the power of the Church to grant Indulgences is deduced by Romish theologians: I mean the promise of our Lord to St. Peter, "I will give thee the keys, &c. And whatsoever thou shalt bind in earth," &c. which was afterwards extended to the Church.

It is argued from these passages<sup>s</sup>, that as the power here given is general and without exception, it must include the power of remitting the *tem-*

<sup>r</sup> Contr. Lect. p. 41.

<sup>s</sup> Bouvier, Traité des Indulg. p. 11; Trevern, *ubi supra*.

*poral penalties* of sin, as well as its eternal penalties.

I have only to remark, that if it *does* include such a power, then it follows, that *Absolution remits the temporal penalties of sin*; that such penalties are therefore no longer due to *remitted* sin, and that there is no necessity for *Satisfactions* or *Indulgences* to avert those temporal penalties. If, on the other hand, no such power is given by these passages, *Indulgences*, which are acts of that power, are unauthorized and unlawful.

Your doctrine of *Satisfaction* then renders it impossible for you to maintain, that the above texts include any power to remit temporal penalties by *Indulgences*. But besides this, there is another proof, that you do not yourselves believe these texts to include any such power, because you hold that *the Sacrament of Penance* was announced and instituted in them: you believe therefore that the powers comprised in them were conferred on *Priests*, and yet none of your *Priests* can grant *Indulgences*. Is it not plain therefore, either that these texts do not, in your opinion, confer the power of granting *Indulgences*; or else that you prevent *Priests* from discharging powers, which you believe them to possess *de jure divino*? The last alternative you will not of course receive: it therefore follows, that you do not believe the above texts to include the power of granting *Indulgences*.

The only example of an *Indulgence* which you

and other Romish divines pretend to discover in Holy Scripture, is in the case of the incestuous Corinthian, in which “the term of punishment is abridged and the sentence reversed, before the completion of the awarded retribution is arrived; and this was in consequence of the very great sorrow manifested by the penitent, which was considered an equivalent for the remaining portion;” and this is, you say, “precisely what we *should call an Indulgence*†.”

This case is disposed of in a moment, by considering that an Indulgence is, according to Romanists, “a relaxation of temporal penalties due to *remitted* sin.” But the penalties imposed in this case were not for *remitted* sin. When St. Paul commanded “such an one to be delivered to Satan,” (1 Cor. v. 5.) he was still apparently in the commission of most grievous sin; and as such, St. Paul speaks of him (verse 13.) as “that *wicked* person.” Consequently his punishment was not inflicted *after his sin had been remitted*; and therefore the remission of that punishment on his repentance was not an *Indulgence* in your sense of the term, but a remission of the penalty inflicted, accompanied by an act of forgiveness of sin, as the Apostle intimates (2 Cor. ii. 7. 10.) where he *forgives* the offender, in the name of Jesus Christ, and authorizes the Church at Corinth to do so likewise, as the offender had given signs of real penitence.

† Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. p. 75.

We next turn to the proofs for Indulgences from Christian Antiquity; and here again I shall take the liberty of noticing those which you have selected as the most conclusive.

Your proofs then are derived from the practice of the primitive Church in relaxing the penances imposed according to the Canons, on those who had confessed their sins and sought to be restored to the communion of the Church.

You allege, that “there are the strongest reasons to believe, that in most cases absolution *preceded the allotment of this penance*, or at least that it was granted *during the time of its performance*,” because the custom of the Roman and other Churches was, to admit penitents yearly to Communion on Holy Thursday, “a circumstance incompatible with the idea of their receiving no pardon till the conclusion of their penance<sup>u</sup>.”

The answer to this is, that the penitents reconciled on Holy Thursday in each year, were those who had *completed* their canonical penance.

You next assert rightly, that the Church reserved to herself the right of *mitigating* the canonical penances, on account of “extraordinary sorrow and fervour manifested by the penitent; or on account of “the approach of persecution, when the penitents would have an opportunity of testifying their sorrow by patient endurance, and where it was thought inexpedient to leave them unfortified by the

<sup>u</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. p. 76.

Eucharist ;” or in case the penitents were “in danger of death,” in which case they were, on recovery, to conclude their time of penance ; or sometimes “when intercession was made in favour of the repenting sinner by persons justly possessing influence with the Pastors of the Church ;” or in fine, when penitents obtained letters of recommendation to mercy from the martyrs imprisoned for the name of Jesus Christ<sup>x</sup>. In all these cases the Church mitigated the penances which had been imposed on sinners, and restored them to Communion. Without doubt, innumerable proofs of all this may be brought from the Fathers and the Councils ; but it can be of no avail to the advocates of Indulgences in the Romish sense of the term. For be it remembered, that according to Romanists, an Indulgence is the remission of temporal penalties due to *remitted sin*. The sin is therefore pardoned and absolved *before* the Indulgence can be obtained. But in all the instances ever cited from the primitive ages, *the Indulgence was a necessary preliminary to absolution : absolution was only granted in consequence of Indulgence ;* and therefore these ancient Indulgences were *not remissions of temporal penalties due to absolved or remitted sin*. This is conclusive against your doctrine of Indulgences.

The truth is, that Indulgences were always in primitive times regarded simply as *relaxations of*

<sup>x</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. p. 77—81.



*penances imposed for sins*, either by way of remission or by commuting them for some less penances. No one ever thought of regarding them as remissions of temporal penalties due to God's justice for remitted sins. Maldonatus has stated, that the Indulgences granted by the Roman Pontiffs themselves always profess to remit the "enjoined penance<sup>y</sup>." They do not themselves pretend to remit the temporal penalties due to God's justice for remitted sin; nor to relieve souls in Purgatory. These latter uses of Indulgences are merely the *inventions of Theologians*, which are not sanctioned either by the doctrines of antiquity, or by the form of Indulgences themselves.

But there is another essential difference between Romish Indulgences and those of primitive times. It is admitted by Romanists that Indulgences refer to the remission of *satisfactions* due for sin; but it has been proved in a former letter, that according to the doctrine of Scripture, Antiquity, and the Roman Church herself, *satisfactions* are not merely for the *temporal penalties* remaining due to sin, but for its *guilt* and *eternal penalties*<sup>z</sup>; consequently Indulgences do not refer merely to the remission of its temporal penalties, but to that of its guilt (*culpa*)

<sup>y</sup> Maldonatus, de Sacramentis, tom. ii. p. 18. It is said that this clause has been omitted in modern grants of Indulgences; doubtless because it too plainly shewed the real and ancient objects of those remissions.

<sup>z</sup> Letter iv. p. 18—37.



and eternal penalties; and therefore if they follow the remission of sin, they are null and void.

The practice of the ancient Church having always been to grant Indulgences as a preliminary to Absolution, it remains to be considered how this discipline has come to be entirely reversed by the Roman Church, which now makes Absolution a preliminary to Indulgences.

Indulgences then *in the sense of remissions or commutations of Canonical Penances*, had been found in the time of the Crusades most effective instruments, in influencing the actions of Christians to such works as were thought highly beneficial to the Popes, and to the Church generally. But about the same time, notions were growing up amongst Latin theologians which led to a change of practice with regard to Absolution and Indulgences. "At the same time," says Fleury, "the practice was introduced of giving Absolution, even after secret penitence, *immediately after* confession and satisfaction imposed and accepted: whereas in antiquity it was not given unless at the end, or at least after a great part of the penance had been accomplished. This change was founded on the reasonings of the scholastic doctors, that external Absolution ought not to be refused to him who, (one should believe,) had already received it internally from God, in virtue of the contrition which he appeared to have in his heart." Tournely<sup>a</sup> speaks of this custom

<sup>a</sup> Fleury, Discours iv. sur l'Hist. Eccl. § 15.

as introduced in the eleventh or twelfth century<sup>b</sup>.

The immediate effect of this on Indulgences was twofold. First, it made Absolution precede them, instead of being preceded by them as formerly. Secondly, as the guilt and eternal punishment were believed to be removed by contrition and Absolution, Satisfaction or Penances were believed only to be for *temporal punishments*; and Indulgences, being *remissions of those Satisfactions*, were considered to act only on temporal punishments likewise. And thus the present Romish practice and doctrine were introduced, in opposition to those of primitive times.

These are not merely my statements: they are those of Morinus, one of your most learned and celebrated authors—whose authority on questions of this nature is indisputable. He actually fixes the date of your doctrine of Indulgences, as not more ancient than the *twelfth* century<sup>c</sup>.

Having thus briefly refuted the pretences on which the doctrine of Indulgences is advocated by Romanists, and shewn its origin; it remains to adduce some further arguments in opposition to this error.

First then, the doctrine of Indulgences as taught by you and commonly received by Romanists, has

<sup>b</sup> Tournely, Tractatus de Pœnitentia, tom. ii. p. 36. Tournely proves, p. 42, &c. that while public penitence was in use, Sacramental Absolution from sins was given after satisfaction had been completed.

<sup>c</sup> Morinus De Pœnitentia, lib. x. cap. 22.

never been defined by any Council; for even the Council of Trent affirms nothing on the subject except that Indulgences are *useful*<sup>d</sup>; and does not assert that they are remissions of temporal penalties due to remitted sin.

Secondly, the Eastern Church, and the ancient societies of the Nestorians and Monophysites in the East, are strangers to the Romish doctrine and practice in regard to Indulgences.

Thirdly, the doctrine of Indulgences is so far from contributing to Christian sanctity, that it is very injurious to it in several respects.

In my first Letter it was alleged, that “Indulgences are made to take the place which Scripture and Tradition assign only to considerations connected with the eternal state; that they are presented to the consciences and hopes of your people, to influence them to the performance of duties which ought only to be urged on the motives of the love and fear of God<sup>e</sup>.” I stated that “your confraternities, your charitable and religious works of all kinds, are virtually dependent on them<sup>f</sup>.” You

<sup>d</sup> Cum potestas conferendi Indulgentias à Christo Ecclesiæ concessa sit; atque hujusmodi potestate, divinitus sibi traditâ, antiquissimis etiam temporibus illa usa fuerit: sacro-sancta synodus Indulgentiarum usum Christiano populo maximè salutarem, et sacrorum conciliorum auctoritate probatum in Ecclesia retinendum esse docet et præcipit: eosque anathemate damnat, qui aut inutiles esse asserunt, vel eas concedendi in Ecclesia potestatem esse negant &c. Conc. Trid. Sessio xxv.

<sup>e</sup> Letter i. p. 29.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. p. 32.

reply to this, that “the way in which the true value of the gift may be estimated, is by its fruits”—that my last statement is a “powerful testimony” to the “value” of Indulgences<sup>g</sup>—that the country “will be most like the Church of God” in which works of charity and piety, even performed with the stimulant of Indulgences, “are done, not the one in which they are neglected<sup>h</sup>.”

It would seem from these answers, as if it had never occurred to you, that the value of a work in God’s sight is to be estimated by its intention or motive. You yourselves allow, that the good works of an unbeliever are not so pleasing to God as to be meritorious of eternal life, because he is without proper motives in performing them. He does not perform those works to the glory of God. If unlawful motives or intentions mingle with good ones in the performance of a good work by any Christian, that work is partly or wholly vitiated, and becomes displeasing to God.

Now I maintain that the desire of gaining an Indulgence for the remission of temporal penalties remaining due to the Divine justice after sin has been pardoned, is an *unlawful* motive to the performance of any work; because it supposes, contrary to the Catholic truth, that God is still unreconciled to those who are in a state of grace; that His justice has still demands, after it has been satisfied by the due application of Christ’s infinite

<sup>g</sup> Remarks, &c. p. 74.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid. p. 75.

merits; and that the justified are objects of his wrath and vengeance. Any work based on such impressions, or whose motives include such impressions, cannot but be displeasing to God.

But every work wrought to obtain an Indulgence must be wrought with such views, for as Bouvier Bishop of Mans informs us, "All the authors agree that, in order to gain an Indulgence, it is *necessary to have a real intention of gaining it*; whence they conclude that in doing a work to which an Indulgence is attached, but without thinking of it, or having had positively the intention of obtaining it, nothing is gained<sup>1</sup>." Consequently, in the performance of all works to which Indulgences are annexed, there must be an intention of gaining Indulgences, that is, of obtaining remission of penalties remaining due after sin is remitted and justification imparted.

And hence we may see at once the weakness of your defence of Indulgences. Suppose if you please, that a greater number of works are produced by Indulgences than would be performed without them—does this really increase the sanctity of a Church? does it render it more like the Church of God? No: such works are actually more or less *displeasing* to God; and be their number what it may, the sanctity of Churches and of individuals is diminished by them instead of being increased. It would have been far better for men to produce a small number

<sup>1</sup> Bouvier, *Traité des Indulg.* p. 87.



of works on *pure* motives, well-pleasing to God, than to have performed a multitude on impure and unsanctified motives.

But besides this, Indulgences as actually practised in the Roman Church, are positively injurious to religion, by encouraging a number of devotions which are of a superstitious or even idolatrous character. The most objectionable prayers and addresses to Saints and Angels, recognising them as the sources of grace, the objects of our hope and confidence, and placing them on a level with God ; the most vain repetitions of forms ; and the practice of customs which are subversive of true and intelligent devotion, are all supported by Indulgences, and made to take the place of great religious duties. It is of such things that Fleury so justly speaks in the following passage.

“ New devotions introduced by some Monks have tended to the same effect of *diminishing the horror of sin*, and *causing the reformation of morals to be neglected*. One may carry a *scapular*, and say every day *the Rosary*, or some *famous prayer*, without pardoning one’s enemies, restoring property acquired by evil means, or forsaking immorality. Such are the devotions which the populace love : which do not engage them to improvement. . . . Thence also comes *external devotion to the Sacrament*. Men prefer to adore it when exposed to view, or to follow it in *procession*, rather than prepare themselves to communicate worthily.



“Since manual labour has ceased amongst the Monks, they have exceedingly extolled *mental prayer*, which is in effect the soul of religion, since it is the actual exercise of adoration in spirit and in truth, prescribed by Jesus Christ Himself. But it is easy to abuse it, and in this consisted chiefly the heresy of the Massalians condemned in the fourth century. . . . The Fratricelli of later times resembled them much, and amongst Catholics even, *mental prayer has served as a pretext for many abuses*. . . . God alone knows the employment of one who remains for an hour or two on his knees with his arms crossed. This lazy, and consequently *equivocal* devotion, has been the most common for about five hundred years, particularly amongst women, who are naturally more indolent and of a livelier imagination<sup>k</sup>.”

Such are the devotions which Indulgences support and render universal in the Roman Communion; and while the belief in Indulgences remains, so long will all those practices, thus sanctioned and encouraged, continue to flourish in rank luxuriance.

But you are disposed to deny, it seems, that Indulgences do really form the motive to your various works. You assert that “Confraternities, &c. do *not* depend upon Indulgences<sup>l</sup>”—that Indulgences are not “proposed as motives of good works, or considered such by Romanists<sup>m</sup>.”

<sup>k</sup> Fleury, Discours viii. sur l’Hist. Eccl. § 15.

<sup>l</sup> Remarks, &c. p. 75.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. p. 76.

These assertions, however, will be of little avail against the facts which have been produced. It has been shewn that the *desire* of obtaining Indulgences must be a distinct motive in performing works to which Indulgences are attached, in order to obtain Indulgences. It has been shewn that all religious and charitable works amongst you have Indulgences annexed ; and it has been further shewn, that the desire for Indulgences is so general, that the best works cannot be performed without their aid ; that you are obliged to be continually on your guard against forged and spurious Indulgences ; and that the doctrine of Romanists necessarily obliges them to spend their lives in labours to obtain Indulgences. This being so, it follows that the desire of obtaining Indulgences, must enter into the motives which influence Romanists in their works generally, and consequently that those works are not well-pleasing to God.

I have thus very cursorily touched on some of the principal features of this important subject, but am ready to discuss it with you at greater length, whenever it may suit your convenience.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

WILLIAM PALMER.

*Oxford, Jan. 13th, 1842.*

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AN  
EIGHTH LETTER

TO

N. WISEMAN, D.D.

ON THE

WORSHIP OF IMAGES AND RELICS.

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BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.

OF WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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OXFORD,  
JOHN HENRY PARKER;  
J. G. F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.  
1842.



AN  
EIGHTH LETTER,  
&c.

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SIR,

THERE is no charge which Romanists are more ready to repel with indignation and scorn than that of *idolatrous worship of images and relics*. When such a subject is even hinted at, we are absolutely overpowered with a torrent of invective, sarcasm, ridicule ; with appeals to our common sense, our charity, our decency ; with the boldest assertions of innocence ; nay even with anathemas against idolatry. This extreme sensibility on the subject of image-worship will, to the discerning mind, indicate the consciousness of some unsoundness, some lurking feeling that all is not as it should be. Were Romanism in truth as free from idolatry as its advocates would have us believe, we should find them more at ease on the subject than they seem to be.

Let us cite a few passages in illustration of what has been said.

I shall first produce your own language. You are quite indignant on the occasion.

“ Nor yet, my brethren, is this the worst feature of the case ; for a graver and more awful charge is laid upon us in consequence of our belief: we are even denounced as idolaters, because we pay a certain reverence, and, if you please, worship, to the Saints of God, and because we honour their outward emblems and representatives. Idolaters ! Know ye, my brethren, the import of this name ? that it is the most frightful charge that can be laid to the score of any Christian ? Then, gracious God ! what must it be when flung as an accusation upon those who have been baptized in the name of Christ, who have tasted the sacred gift of His body, &c. Assuredly they know not what they say who deliberately and directly make this enormous charge ; and they have to answer for *misrepresentation*, yea, for *calumny of the blackest dye*, who hesitate not again and again to repeat, with heartless earnestness and perseverance, this most *odious* of accusations, without being fully assured (which they cannot be) in their consciences and before God, that it really can be proved. . . . You will not open *a single Catholic writer*, from the folio decrees of Councils, down to the smallest catechism placed in the hands of the youngest children, in which you will not find it expressly taught, that it is sinful to pay the same homage or worship to the Saints, or to the greatest of the Saints, or the highest of the Angels in heaven, which we pay to God<sup>a</sup>,” &c. &c.

<sup>a</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, vol. ii. pp. 93, 94. I cannot



Let us next hear the Declaration of “the Vicars Apostolic.”

“*Ignorance or malice* has gone so far as to charge the Catholic Church with *idolatry* in the worship of the Saints, and of the images of Christ and of the Saints. The Catholic Church teaches that idolatry is one of the greatest crimes that can be committed against the majesty of God ; and every true member of this Church *shudders at the idea of such a crime*, and feels grievously injured by so horrid an imputation. . . . To *worship* the images of Christ or of the Saints, the word is here again understood by Catholics only of an *inferior* and relative respect shewn to images. . . . To condemn this relative regard for images or pictures, would be to condemn the very feelings of nature. To charge a Catholic with idolatry because the term *worship*, meaning only an inferior and relative regard, is found in the ancient and modern Liturgies of his Church, is not consistent with *candour* or *charity*. The charge that the Catholic Church sanctions the praying to images is a calumny, and carries with it an imputation of stupidity too gross to be noticed<sup>b</sup>,” &c.

Dr. Baines shall speak next.

“You have been told that ‘Romanists worship

but admire the ingenuity of this disclaimer. You deny that divine honours are due to the *Saints* or their *images*; but you *forget to notice our charge*, that divine honours are paid to Images of Christ and to the cross.

<sup>b</sup> Declaration of Vicars Apostolic, 1826, Section iv.

images, as did the pagans of old, and that, like them, they give the glory of the eternal God to the works of men's hands.' I know how common such accusations are, and how *otherwise* respectable are the sources from which they spring, or I should fear to *insult your understandings* by supposing that any of *you* are capable of believing them. For is it possible that in an age and country which claims to be so learned and enlightened, men should be found capable of believing that the majority of the Christian world are so ignorant, so debased, so stupid, so *wicked*, as to give divine honours to a lifeless and senseless image? Really, my Christian brethren, I blush to think it should be necessary to say that Catholics, as well as you, know the folly, and detest as much as you, the impiety of giving divine honours to a lifeless piece of wood or ivory. . . . I shall then merely add, in the words of St. Paul, in conformity with the repeated decisions of the Catholic Church, and *in unison with the voice of every Catholic in the world*, anathema to the man who worships an image as God, or gives to it divine honours<sup>c</sup>, or believes it to possess any portion of divine power or virtue, or places his trust in it, or prays to it, or believes it to be any thing more than a lifeless,

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Baines, following the general doctrine of Roman Catholic divines, denies that divine honour or Latria is due to images simply *per se*. This does not by any means imply that he refuses them such honour where they are considered as *representing* their originals. This distinction will be noticed further on.

senseless lump of matter. . . . And, my brethren, I will add, without hesitation or fear, anathema to myself if the doctrine I have here explained to you is not the true and universally received doctrine of the Catholic Church<sup>d</sup>.”

But Sir, notwithstanding all these vehement protestations, it is clear, by your own admissions and by those of other Romanists, that the Roman Church is not so perfectly immaculate as you would lead us to suppose.

We have first the following admission, “I shall be told that the manner in which the poorer Catholics pray before her (the Virgin’s) *images* and those of the Saints, betrays *a greater fervour of devotion than they display at other times*; nay, that it even indicates a superstitious trust in those outward symbols themselves. This appearance may be partly *true*<sup>e</sup>.”

Nor is it merely that *appearances* are against you, a truth which every traveller is ready to attest, but Roman Catholics themselves are obliged to admit, that those appearances are not fallacious; in short, that there are *real abuses* in the Roman communion on this subject.

“Experience,” says Van Espen, “has long ago taught how difficult it is to guard against irreligious or superstitious worship, *in some degree savouring of*

<sup>d</sup> P. A. Baines, D.D., Sermon on Faith, Hope, and Charity.

<sup>e</sup> Wiseman, Letter to Newman, p. 24.

*idolatry*, in this public and external veneration of images and statues, especially when the base gain of the priests mingles itself with it, combined with the ignorance or excessive credulity of the people. . . . Indeed, notwithstanding many decrees of Councils, and especially the salutary regulations of the Council of Trent, *so great and so various is the superstitious, and (as it were) idolatrous worship of images and statues*, amongst the common and unlearned people, that the Gallican Bishops (in the ninth century) do not seem to have had unfounded apprehensions that the unlearned populace would be with difficulty withdrawn from the superstitious worship and unfitting adoration of images, if their worship were allowed. . . . It is certain that the manifold superstitious worship of holy images owes, for the greater part if not entirely, its origin, progress, and stability, to the filthy lucre of priests, either secular or regular, which they seek from the popular concourse and indiscreet affection of the people to certain images<sup>f</sup>."

The same evils were acknowledged by the learned Gerson, in the fifteenth century. "Judge," said he, "whether so great a variety of images and pictures in the Church be expedient, and whether they do not sometimes pervert numbers of the unlearned people to idolatry<sup>g</sup>."

<sup>f</sup> Van Espen Opera, tom. ii. pp. 240, 241. ed. Lovan. 1732.

<sup>g</sup> Gerson, Defect. Eccl. n. 67. tom. i. Opera, p. 207, Ed. Paris. 1606.

This, Sir, explains in some degree the irritation which Romish authors invariably display when the subject of idolatry is mentioned. But let us examine the subject a little more closely, and enquire whether superstitious and *idolatrous* practices in reference to images and relics are mere *abuses* in the Church of Rome, or whether they are not taught, allowed, and sanctioned by the highest authorities amongst you.

I undertake then to demonstrate that, notwithstanding all your disclaimers, DIRECT AND FORMAL IDOLATRY—WHAT YOU YOURSELVES ADMIT TO BE IDOLATRY—IS AUTHORIZED AND APPROVED IN YOUR COMMUNION, AND THAT YOU ARE PREVENTED BY YOUR OWN PRINCIPLES FROM CONDEMNING IT.

First then, what is idolatry, according to Romanists?

“It is the giving to man, or to any thing created, that homage, that adoration, and that worship, which God hath reserved unto Himself<sup>h</sup>.” “Idolatry pays divine honour to creatures<sup>i</sup>.” “Those only are idolaters who offer to a creature the honour and worship due to God<sup>j</sup>.” Idolatry is, according to Ligorio, “when honour is given to the creature as to God. This is done (as Lessius teacheth) not merely by sacrifice, but also by any sign of honour, by which any one intends to submit himself to a

<sup>h</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lectures, ii. 93.

<sup>i</sup> Hornyhold, Real Principles of Catholics, p. 150.

<sup>j</sup> Trevern, Discuss. Amicale, tom. ii. p. 276.



creature as to God, e. g. by genuflexion, offering incense, uncovering the head<sup>k</sup>,” &c. It is, according to Amort, “the adoration of a creature as God<sup>l</sup>.” Thomas Aquinas remarks that idolatry is a species of superstition, “which is chiefly practised when divine worship is attributed to one to whom it is not due; but it ought to be paid only to the supreme, uncreated God<sup>m</sup>.” I need not pursue this point any further. All your writers, without a single exception, agree that idolatry consists in offering to creatures that supreme worship which is only due to God.

Secondly. What, according to Romanists, is the supreme worship due to God, or how is it designated by them?

Bellarmino says, “There are as many sorts of adoration or worship as there are species of excellence. But, as far as relates to the present purpose, there are three species of excellence. The first is the *Divine* and *infinite* excellence, to which corresponds the first species of worship, which is called by theologians *LATRIA*<sup>n</sup>.” “It is to be observed,” says Tournely, “that there are three sorts of adoration or worship, *LATRIA*, which is due to God only; *Dulia*, which is due to creatures; *Hyperdulia*, which

<sup>k</sup> Ligorio, *Theologia Moralis*, l. iii. n. 12.

<sup>l</sup> Amort, *Theologia*, tom. xx. p. 272.

<sup>m</sup> Aquinas, *Summa Theologiæ*, *Secunda Secundæ*, quæst. xciv. art. 1.

<sup>n</sup> Bellarmin. de *Sanct. Beatit.* l. i. c. xii.



is bestowed on the blessed Virgin<sup>o</sup>.” “The words LATRIA and Dulia have been rightly employed to discriminate properly the supreme worship due to God only, from the inferior worship with which Angels or Saints are honoured<sup>p</sup>.” “There are some of the common people,” said the Wallenburghs, “who often understand the word ‘adoration’ as signifying *the highest honour due to God, which we call LATRIA*, or as meaning the adoration of Latria, which however has been taught by no Council. Nay rather, the second Synod of Nice says that images are to be adored, but it adds, *not with Latria<sup>q</sup>*.” In like manner you cite the following words of St. Augustine, as exhibiting the same distinction which is made by Romanists. “We venerate the martyrs . . . But with that worship which the Greeks call *λατρεία*, and which in Latin cannot be expressed by one word—as it is a worship properly due only to the Divinity—with that worship we worship God alone<sup>r</sup>.” Trevern, in remarking on a decree of the second Synod of Nice which Romanists receive as œcumenical, says, “The Council distinguishes by these certain characters, the adoration *due to God alone*, from those which may be paid to other objects: it calls the first, the adoration of LATRIA, which pertains *exclusively to God<sup>s</sup>*.”

<sup>o</sup> Tournely, De Incarnatione, p. 782.

<sup>p</sup> Perrone, De cultu Creat. cap. i. Præl. Theol. tom. iv. p. 341.

<sup>q</sup> Wallenburch, Controvers. tom. ii. p. 206.

<sup>r</sup> Wiseman, Controv. Lect. ii. 113.

<sup>s</sup> Trevern, Discuss. Amic. tom. ii. p. 323.

I ought to apologize for pressing on the attention of the reader a distinction so well known, and so universally received by all your writers. If you are charged with paying idolatrous worship to images or relics, you are ready with your reply, "that no calumny can be more gross, *because* the honour which you give to images and relics, is infinitely inferior to, is altogether different from, that true LATRIA which you only pay to God."

And, Sir, I am ready to concede, that as far as *theory* goes, Romanists are not guilty of the monstrous absurdity of paying divine worship or LATRIA to stocks and stones *per se*, or even to *Saints* and *Angels* when *they* are represented. To do them justice, Romanists are careful enough, in their theological writings, and especially in controversies with us, to draw distinctions between the Latria which they pay to God, and the Hyperdulia, and the Dulia which they pay to the Virgin, and to all other Saints and their images. I do not charge you then with advocating *in theory*, the lawfulness of offering divine honours to the images or relics of *the Saints*<sup>t</sup>, nor do I say, that you teach the people to *pray to* images. There is quite enough in your principles and practice to excite our most serious alarm for your condition, without imputing to you any thing which you can fairly rebut and deny.

But what I do mean to assert and maintain is this ;

<sup>t</sup> I must except the Virgin, for as it will hereafter be seen, some Romish theologians are of opinion that Latria is due to her.

that LATRIA—the very honour due to *God alone* by your own confession, is paid to creatures in the Church of Rome—that this worship has been openly avowed and recommended by your most eminent divines—that it is a lawful practice amongst you sanctioned by authority—that it has never been censured—that it cannot be condemned by any Romanist.

But to descend to particulars; I undertake to demonstrate, that, according to the doctrine of your most eminent theologians, *approved by the Roman Church*, LATRIA or *Divine worship* is due to the following creatures. *Images* of Christ; of the Trinity; of God the Father. *Relics* of the blood of Christ; of His nails; His hair; His flesh; of the true Cross; of the nails which fastened Him to it; of the spear; the scourge; the reed; the sponge; of the napkin of Veronica; of the linen cloth in which our Lord was wound; of the coat without seam; of the purple robe; of the pillar to which He was bound when He was scourged; of the inscription on the Cross. *Images* of the true Cross of any material, such as wood, metal, or ivory. *The blessed Virgin*, and her *images* and *relics*. *The Scriptures*. To all these created objects, LATRIA or *the honour due to God only*, is formally, expressly, and professedly paid in the Roman Communion.

These points shall be immediately established by quotations from your most eminent divines; and as you are for ever asserting that the decrees of the

Council of Trent in regard to images have entirely prevented the possibility of idolatry, I shall only cite from writers who have lived since that Council was celebrated.

1. I shall commence with Azorius.

“The first question is, Whether the *Cross* and *Image* of Christ our Lord ought to be adored with the worship of LATRIA? There are four opinions of the doctors, but in my judgment they may be reduced to two, as I shall hereafter say.

“The first opinion denies it; so that, according to this opinion, the worship of Latria is referred, as to its term, to Christ, contained in the image only by thought or meditation; and the Image or Cross is only that, in which, or by which, we worship *Christ*, so that it may be truly said, we do not worship the Cross or the Image of Christ with Latria, but Christ Himself in the Cross or Image<sup>u</sup>.”

He remarks that Alexander, Durandus, Holcot, and Mirandula, are all said to have been of this opinion.

“The second opinion affirms that they, (the *Images* and *Cross*,) OUGHT TO BE WORSHIPPED WITH THE ADORATION OF LATRIA, that is, with the same worship, honour, and veneration, with which Christ, whose image it is, is worshipped; for it saith, that in a Cross or Image *three* things may be considered; First, the mere substance of the sign or image in its

<sup>u</sup> Azorii Institut. Moral. tom. i. lib. ix. c. vi.

own nature and *per se*, which is matter, i. e. wood, gold, silver, or stone ; and in this respect it is not capable of veneration or worship. The second is, the figure, relation, and order, by which a sign or image is referred to the original which it represents ; for what represents and what is represented, are mutually related : in which way also the worship of Latria is by no means due ; because this order and relation is something created, really distinct from Christ, the prototype and original. The third is, that the image actually refers to and *represents* Christ, AND IN THIS MANNER, saith Cajetan, THE WORSHIP OF LATRIA IS DUE TO IT ; so that the worship is referred as well to the IMAGE which represents, as to Christ whose similitude it bears<sup>x</sup>.”

This opinion he says, “ *is received by the common consent of Theologians*, as St. Thomas, Alexander de Hales, Bonaventure, Ricardus, Albertus Magnus, Paludanus, Almain, Marsilius, Major, Capreolus, and the other more recent writers.”

“ The third opinion is that of Gabriel Biel, who asserts that worship is due to the Cross and Image of Christ, but not that of Latria properly, but im-

<sup>x</sup> Secunda opinio affirmat coli debere adoratione Latriæ, hoc est eodem cultu, honore, et veneratione qua colitur Christus, cujus est imago : ait enim, in Cruce vel Imagine posse tria considerari . . . . Tertium est, Imaginem actu Christum ipsum referre et repræsentare, et hoc modo inquit Cajetanus 3. par. 9. 25. Art. 3. cultus Latriæ ei est debitus. Ita ut cultus tùm ad imaginem repræsentantem, tùm ad Christum cujus similitudinem gerit, referatur. Azorius, *ubi supra*.



properly and in a general signification, or by a sort of analogy and similitude.”

“ The fourth opinion *distinguishes* in this manner. When the image is worshipped on account of that which it represents, it is the worship of *Latria* ; but when on account of itself . . . it is not the worship of *Latria* but *Dulia*<sup>v</sup>. ”

It may be observed here, that *Latria* is admitted in some sense to be due to the *Cross* or *Image* of Christ by the advocates of three out of four opinions, which, according to Azorius, exist amongst Romish theologians.

Azorius, who upholds the *second* opinion, then considers the objections which may be advanced against it from the decrees of the second Nicene Synod, and remarks that “ the Synod suggests that a two-fold worship is to be paid to a Cross ; of *LATRIA*, on account of the original which it represents ; and of *Dulia*, on account of the sanctity as it were inherent in it. . . . On the other hand it is *the constant judgment of Theologians* that the image should be honoured and worshipped with the same honour and veneration with the original ; and *the Council of Trent* seems to intimate this, Sess. xxv. In decreto fidei de sacris imaginibus.” So that the image of Christ is to be adored with *Latria*.

We have thus seen, that the *true Cross* of Christ and the *Image* of Christ are to be adored with *Latria*. Let us next see what is said of other matters.

<sup>v</sup> Azorius, *ubi supra*.



Azorius enquires, “ Whether, as a Cross of any material is worthy of the worship of Latria, so also the *nails, spear, scourges, sponge, and crown of thorns*, made of any materials, ought to be worshipped with LATRIA. St. Thomas replies, that a Cross of any material ought to be worshipped with Latria, because not only the Cross on which Jesus Christ hung, is worthy of that worship because it *touched Christ* ; but also inasmuch as it is a Cross, that is, a sign and image of Christ hanging on the Cross ; but the other instruments of our Lord’s Passion only deserve the worship of LATRIA, because they touched the body of Christ<sup>z</sup>.”

Hence it follows that any *relics* of such instruments are to be adored with Latria, though images of them are not to be so.

Another question is, “ Whether, if any portion of the *blood* shed in the death of Christ, which Christ did not resume when He came to life, should exist any where, it ought to be worshipped with LATRIA. From what St. Thomas has taught, it is deduced, that it *ought* to be worshipped ; because, although

<sup>z</sup> Quæritur, An quemadmodum Crux cujuslibet materiæ cultu Latriæ digna est, sic etiam clavi, lancea, flagella, spongia, et corona spinea ex alia quælibet materia confecta, cultu Latriæ coli debeant. S. Thomas . . . respondet, Crucem ex qualibet materia constantem. coli debere Latria, quia eo cultu non solum Crux quâ Christus pependit digna est, eò quod Christum tetigerit ; sed etiam quatenus Crux est, hoc est signum et imago Christi in Cruce pendentis ; at verò cætera Dominicæ passionis instrumenta solum cultum Latriæ merentur quia Christi corpus tetigerunt. Azorius, Ibid.

separated from the Divine Word, it yet *touched* the body of Christ ; so that if any of His *hairs* existed any where, or any little *particles of His flesh* separated by circumcision, they would deserve the worship of LATRIA<sup>a</sup>.”

There are many alleged relics of our Saviour in existence, such as hairs, drops of His blood, parings of His nails, the prepuce, the napkin of St. Veronica, &c. &c. ; all of which are, according to this doctrine, to be worshipped with LATRIA.

In fine, Azorius states his own belief to be, that the worship due to images is, “ LATRIA, if we worship the image of Christ ; Hyperdulia if it be the image of the Virgin ; or Dulia if we worship the images of the Saints dwelling in heaven<sup>b</sup>.”

2. The next Theologian to whom I shall appeal is Cabrera.

In speaking of the different opinions of Roman Catholic Divines on this point, he says, that the “ First is, that images are to be adored on account of the prototype ; yet not with the same adoration, but with another inferior.” He cites some writers

<sup>a</sup> Quæritur, An si alicubi superesset aliqua portio sanguinis in morte Christi effusi, quam Christus redivivus non resumpserit, coli deberet Latria ? Ex his quæ tradidit S. Thomas . . . deducitur coli debere, quia etsi à Verbo Divino esset reipsa disjunctus, tetigit tamen corpus Christi ; ut si aliqui capilli ejusdem uspiam extarent, aut aliquæ exiguæ particulæ carnis per circumcisionem abscissæ, cultum Latriæ mererentur. Azorius, Ibid.

<sup>b</sup> Si sit imago Christi, est Latria : si Deiparæ, hyperdulæ : si aliorum sanctorum cum Christo in cælo viventium, duliæ. Ibid.

who held this opinion, and who thought that the image of Christ should not be adored with Latria, or else that Latria should be only offered to it *analogicè*.”

“The second opinion teaches that the same adoration altogether should be exhibited to the images and the things they represent; so that the Image of Christ is to be adored with the Latria with which Christ Himself is worshipped; that of the Virgin with Hyperdulia; and so of the rest.”

This, he says, is the doctrine of St. Thomas, Cajetan, Capreolus, Paludanus, Ferrariensis, St. Antoninus, Soto, “*and almost all the ancient Theologians* ;” of Alexander Alensis, Albertus Magnus, Bonaventure, Richard St. Victor, Dionysius Carthusianus, Major, Marsilius, Waldensis, Tunecremata, Angestus against Luther, Clichtovæus, Turrianus, Vasquez, “and many others more recently<sup>d</sup>.”

This doctrine is, according to Cabrera, proved from the *Council of Trent*, from “*the Seventh Synod*,” from the Fathers, &c.; and he maintains that it is “most true, most pious, and very consonant to the decrees of faith.”

Cabrera replies to all the objections which are alleged from the Councils of Nice and Trent, and establishes the above doctrine from both of those Councils<sup>f</sup>. He even maintains that it is *de fide*.

<sup>c</sup> Pet. de Cabrera, in iii. part. S. Thomæ, Commen. tom. ii. p. 639. Ed. 1602.

<sup>d</sup> Ib. p. 641.

<sup>e</sup> Ib. p. 644.

<sup>f</sup> Ib. p. 646.

“From this explanation of the Council of Nice, collected from the Fathers, it seems to follow that *it is a dogma of the faith*, that the image of Christ and the Cross also, are to be adored with LATRIA; although it seems to many in this age, that it has not yet been defined by a Council, but only that images should be honoured with due veneration; but that it has not been defined what this veneration should be<sup>g</sup>.”

With more particular reference to the Cross, Cabrera deduces from St. Thomas Aquinas the following conclusions.

“First—The Cross on which Christ was crucified is to be adored with LATRIA, both because it represents the form of Christ extended on it, and because it was sanctified by the contact of the members of Christ, and bathed in His blood<sup>h</sup>.” The proof is as follows: “The adoration of LATRIA is due to that thing in which the hope of salvation is placed, but the hope of salvation is placed in the Cross of Christ, according to that hymn of the Church, ‘O Crux ave, spes unica,’ &c. Therefore, &c. Secondly, because we speak to

<sup>g</sup> Ex hac explicatione Concilii Nicæni collecti ex Patribus videtur sequi, esse dogma fidei, quod Christi imago et similiter Crux sit adoranda Latria. p. 647.

<sup>h</sup> Prima conclusio. Crux in qua Christus crucifixus est, utroque modo adoranda est *Latria*, et quia *repræsentat* formam Christi in ea extensi, et quia *contactu membrorum* Christi sanctificata est, et ejus sanguine perfusa. p. 651.

it (the Cross) and entreat it, as if it were Christ crucified Himself<sup>i</sup>.”

“ Secondly—The *image* of the Cross of Christ, of any materials, is to be adored with LATRIA<sup>k</sup>,” &c.

It may be here observed, that the above argument from the *language* applied to the Cross would equally go to prove that the Virgin and Saints are adored with Latria, as I have produced in my first and fifth Letter many addresses to them, which fully equal what Aquinas cites in reference to the Cross. We may therefore claim Aquinas himself as a testimony to the idolatrous character of those addresses to the Saints.

Cabrera establishes the first of the above conclusions from Scripture and the Fathers, “ whence,” he says, “ it is evident that the Cross on which Christ hung is to be adored with LATRIA, on account of the contact of the members of Christ ; because, on this consideration alone, (setting aside its being an image) it is a *relic* of Christ our Lord ; but it is certain that relics are to be adored, as will appear in Article 6. Whence, as the adoration of Latria seems to me to have been defined as a *matter of faith*, to be due to the *images* of Christ, so also I think of His *Cross*. And a most cogent reason may also be

<sup>i</sup> Illi rei debetur adoratio Latriæ in qua spes salutis ponitur, sed in Christi cruce ponitur salutis spes, juxta illud quod canit Ecclesia, O Crux ave spes unica &c. Ergo. Secundo, quia eam alloquimur et deprecamur quasi ipsum Crucifixum. Ibid.

<sup>k</sup> Secunda conclusio. Effigies Crucis Christi in quacumque alia materia, est adoranda Latria. Ibid.



deduced from the received custom of the Church, which addresses the Cross itself as she does Christ crucified<sup>1</sup>."

He observes that the opinion of those who deny that Latria is due to the Cross, or that honour is only due to it in remembrance of Christ, is *erroneous*, and ought to be rejected.

Cabrera maintains that the *second* conclusion, cited above, is "also to be held *as a matter of faith*<sup>m</sup>," i. e. that a Cross of any material is to be adored with LATRIA.

With reference to the *images* of the nails, &c., he holds, with Aquinas, that they are not to be worshipped with LATRIA. He reserves that worship for those objects themselves. "In the third degree are those things which by contact with our Lord partook of His holiness, and remained dignified even in the estimation of believers; as the Cross, nails, thorns, spear, &c.; and these are to be adored with LATRIA<sup>n</sup>."

It might be naturally imagined that if the Cross

<sup>1</sup> Unde sicut nobis visa est definita adoratio Latriæ de imaginibus Christi secundum fidem, sic etiam de Cruce. Et habetur etiam argumentum firmissimum ex consuetudine recepta ab Ecclesia, quæ . . . ipsam Crucem alloquitur atque ipsum Christum crucifixum. p. 653.

<sup>m</sup> Secunda conclusio D. Thomæ est similiter *de fide* tenenda definita in 6 Synodo can. 73 and 77. 7 Synodo, et 8 Synodo. Ibid.

<sup>n</sup> In tertio gradu sunt illa, quæ ex contactu Domini sanctitatem ejus participaverunt, et manserunt dignificata etiam in æstimatione fidelium, ut crux, clavi, spinæ, lancea, &c. Et hæc sunt adoranda Latria. p. 654.



was to be adored with Latria on account of its contact with Christ, other objects might be regarded as entitled to the same worship. And here of course the Blessed Virgin will at once occur to the mind. Accordingly we find that there are various theologians who are of opinion that she is entitled to Latria. Cabrera shall speak on this very important point.

After citing from Thomas Aquinas the following conclusion, "The Mother of Christ is not to be adored with Latria, but with hyperdulia," he observes that, "The first part of this conclusion is a dogma of faith, since the opposite is the heresy of the Collyridians, (as Epiphanius relates, Hær. 78 et 79), who worshipped the blessed Virgin as God and offered sacrifices to her . . . But whether, by reason of her *contact* with the body of Christ and the consanguinity which she had with Christ, she may be in some way adored with LATRIA, has not been defined by the Church, *but is a matter of controversy with theologians*. On the affirmative side, the first argument is, that the insignia of Christ's Passion, such as the Cross, spear, crown of thorns, &c. are adored with Latria on account of their *contact*; but the Virgin Mother of God was more closely united with Christ than the Cross, &c. Secondly, because she was the *Mother* of Christ, and therefore should be adored with the same veneration as the King Himself. Thirdly, because titles are given to the blessed Virgin which are only due to God; therefore Latria ought to be paid her with

these titles ; or if it be not, the titles should not be either<sup>o</sup>," &c.

It may here be observed that according to the generally received principle that the same honour is due to images and relics as to their originals, it follows that the images and relics of the Virgin are to be adored with Latria.

Cabrera produces the arguments of Aquinas in opposition, and thus continues. "Cajetan understands this to be the opinion of St. Thomas, not absolutely and simply, but by reason of *scandal* or *danger* ; in the absence of which he admits that the blessed Virgin may be worshipped with the adoration of LATRIA in respect of her *contact* alone. *Other theologians* are of opinion that she may be adored with LATRIA, not merely on account of *contact*, but also on account of her maternity and consanguinity<sup>p</sup>."

<sup>o</sup> An verò ratione *contactus* corporis Christi, et propter sanguinis conjunctionem, quam cum Christo habuit, possit aliqua ratione adorari *Latria*, non est ab Ecclesia definitum, sed est positum in *controversia theologorum*. Pro parte affirmativa est primum argumentum ; quia ratione *contactus* adorantur Latria insignia passionis Christi, ut Crux, lancea, corona spinea, &c. Sed Deipara Virgo fuit Christo conjunctior quam crux, &c. Ergo. Secundo, quia fuit mater Christi ; ergo adoranda est eadem veneratione, qua Rex. Tertio, quia beatissimæ Virgini tribuuntur tituli qui solo Deo debentur, ergo cum hujusmodi titulis debet illi exhiberi Latria, aut si Latria non deferatur, neque tituli debent deferri, &c. Cabrera, p. 655.

The *second* of these reasons will remind you of the language and illustrate the meaning of the Tipperary farmer mentioned in my first Letter.

<sup>p</sup> Hanc D. Thomæ sententiam intelligit Cajetanus hîc non

It may be easily inferred from the following sentiments of Alphonso de Ligorio, that there must be a large number of persons in the Roman communion who would be disposed to receive the doctrine that Latria is due to the blessed Virgin. “When an opinion honourable to the holy Virgin is discussed, if this opinion be neither repugnant to faith, nor to the decisions of the Church, and that it has some foundation, some support; to reject, to combat it, merely because the other sentiment may be also true, demonstrates very little either love or respect for the Mother of God<sup>a</sup>.” Since then the opinion that Latria is due to the Virgin on account of her contact and consanguinity with our Lord may be lawfully held by Romanists, it cannot be doubtful that the votaries of the Virgin must regard it as a sort of duty to adopt, or at least to favour that opinion.

Cabrera himself does not agree with this opinion, but he does not presume to censure it.

It further appears from his statement, that the name of Jesus and the *Scriptures* are, according to some theologians, to be worshipped with LATRIA.

“It is doubted, with regard to this and the preceding articles, what is to be said of the worship of the name of Jesus, of the names of God, and of

absolutè et simpliciter, sed ratione scandali aut periculi, quo cessante concedit posse B. Virginem coli adoratione Latriæ ratione solius contactus. Alii theologi opinantur non solum ratione contactus, verum etiam ratione maternitatis propter sanguinis conjunctionem posse adorari Latria. p. 655.

<sup>a</sup> Glories of Mary, chap. v.

the Holy Scripture. *Some answer in the very same manner as regards images, because they are signs and notes, to which therefore the same adoration is due as to the things signified<sup>r</sup>.*"

3. Gregory de Valentia maintains the following position. "Images are to be honoured with the same honour as their prototypes, and therefore the images of Christ's humanity are to be worshipped with LATRIA<sup>s</sup>."

"The question is whether the wood of the Cross and other things which are, as it were, relics of Christ, as the Sudarium, particles of His blood, and such like things, which are customarily shewn, ought to be honoured with LATRIA . . . I reply, as of the images of Christ, whatever it be that is held on no light grounds to have had the habit of touching Christ, is most rightly honoured with Latria, not *per se*, but *per aliud*, as St. Thomas explains it . . . The very wood of the Cross ought to be honoured with Latria. So also the linen cloth or Sudarium of Christ is to be adored with Latria, and the nails, spear, &c.—So also any relics of the blood of Christ. But as far as relates to the Cross which is customarily formed of various materials, in imitation of that Cross on which Christ hung; it is also to be adored with LATRIA<sup>t</sup>."

<sup>r</sup> Cabrera, *ubi supra*, p. 656.

<sup>s</sup> Gregorius de Valentia, Comment. in D. Thom. tom. iv. p. 339. Ed. Lugd. 1619.

<sup>t</sup> Quæstio est utrum etiam lignum crucis et aliæ quasi Christi

4. Gretser, one of your most celebrated Theologians, writes thus.

“ We have thus far shewn that the Cross of the Lord is to be worshipped : it is now to be explained more particularly with what species of worship not only the original Cross, but its images and signs, are to be adored. . . . We assert, in accordance with *the opinion which is more common, and generally received in the schools*, that the Cross is to be worshipped with LATRIA, that is with DIVINE WORSHIP, not indeed *per se*, but *per aliud*; not absolutely, but with respect and relation to its prototype. To which opinion St. Thomas subscribes, and many of those who follow his doctrine, as Cajetan, Capreolus, Gregory de Valentia, and others not a few<sup>u</sup>.” He then proves this doctrine at great length from tradition.

reliquiæ, ut sudarium, particulæ sanguinis, et similia quæ ostendi solent, debeant honorari Latria. . . . Respondeo, similiter ac de Christi imaginibus, quicquid est tale, quod non leviter existimatur habere ejusmodi habitudinem contactus ad Christum, rectissime honorari Latria, non per se, sed per aliud, ut Divus Thomas explicat. . . . Lignum ipsum crucis . . . honorari debet Latria. . . . Sic etiam Latria adorandum est Linteum sive sudarium Christi, et clavi, et lancea, &c. . . . Sic et sanguinis Christi reliquiæ aliquæ. . . . Quod verò attinet ad crucem quæ in similitudinem ejus crucis in qua Christus pendit formari solet ex variis materiis; adoranda illa quoque est Latria. Greg. de Valent. *ubi supra*, p. 343.

<sup>u</sup> Asserimus autem cum sententia communiori, et in scholis magis trita, crucem colendam esse Latria, hoc est, cultu Divino, non quidem per se, sed per aliud, &c. Jac. Gretserus, De Cruce, tom. i. p. 169. l. i. c. 57.



Gretser affirms that the same worship is due to all the instruments of our Lord's suffering—"the nails with which Christ was fixed to the Cross; the spear which pierced His side, the sponge with which He was given to drink, the title of the Cross, the pillar to which He was bound when beaten with rods, and other instruments of the Lord's Passion consecrated by the touch or the blood of Christ<sup>x</sup>." To all of these the same worship is due. And we learn further from this writer, that these instruments are still in existence, and are worshipped in various parts of the world. The *nails* are to be found in various places<sup>y</sup>. There are relics of the *title of the Cross* at Rome and Toulouse<sup>z</sup>. Many *thorns* and fragments of the crown of thorns still subsist<sup>a</sup>. The *column* to which our Lord was tied is to be found in the Church of St. Praxedes at Rome, besides many fragments of the same which are shewn elsewhere<sup>b</sup>. The *reed* and *sponge* are at St. John Lateran, though part of the latter is also in France<sup>c</sup>. The *spear* is at Paris, and in other places<sup>d</sup>. The *napkin of Veronica*, with which our Lord dried His face, and on which its impress remained, is at Turin, together with the *linen cloth* in which He was wrapped in the tomb<sup>e</sup>. The *coat*

<sup>x</sup> Gretser, *ubi supra*, c. 54. p. 161.

<sup>y</sup> Ibid. p. 284.

<sup>z</sup> Ibid. p. 286, 287.

<sup>a</sup> Ibid. p. 288, 289.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 290.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 290.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. p. 291-293.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. p. 295-297.



*without seam* still exists, it seems, at Paris, Treves, and elsewhere<sup>f</sup>, not to speak of the *purple robe*<sup>g</sup>, and many other similar relics, all of which, together with those above mentioned, are, according to the doctrine of Aquinas and of the great body of Roman Catholic theologians, to be worshipped with Latria or Divine worship.

5. Vasquez maintains at length and with great learning, that the image must be worshipped with the *very same act of worship* as the original. "It is an exceedingly common and ancient doctrine of the divines, which I think true, that the motion of adoration towards the image, so passes into its prototype and original, that both are included under the same veneration; so that, not even in thought can the image be adored *per se* without the original, or separated from it<sup>h</sup>." He affirms that "the ancient scholastics . . . say absolutely that the images of Christ and of *the Trinity*, are to be worshipped with the adoration of LATRIA<sup>i</sup>."

6. Jacobus de Graffis, Penitentiary at Naples, affirmed that "We should bestow LATRIA on the image of *God*, or of *Christ*, or the sign of the Cross<sup>k</sup>."

<sup>f</sup> Gretser, *ubi supra*, p. 300.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. p. 301.

<sup>h</sup> Vasquez, *De cultu Adorationis Libri tres*, l. ii. disp. viii. c. 3. p. 283. Ed. Mogunt. 1594.

<sup>i</sup> Veteres scholastici . . . absolutè dicunt imagines Christi et Trinitatis esse colendas adoratione Latriæ. Disp. ix. c. i. p. 374.

<sup>k</sup> Ut unamquamque imaginem eodem cultu quo ille cujus imago est veneremur, id est, ut imagini Dei, vel Christi, vel etiam crucis

7. The same doctrine is taught by Francis de Sales. "In so far as (the Cross) represents Christ crucified, and has been sprinkled with His blood, it is to be adored with the same adoration as Christ Himself, that is, with LATRIA<sup>1</sup>."

8. Bellarmine recognises the doctrine of Aquinas as existing in the Church. He states that "there are three opinions," as to the sort of worship due to images, the second of which is, "that the same honour is due to the image as to the original; and therefore that the image of Christ is to be adored with Latria<sup>m</sup>." He argues indeed that "as far as regards the manner of *speaking*, it should not be *said* (especially in Sermons to the people) that any images ought to be adored with Latria, but on the contrary that they ought not to be so adored<sup>n</sup>." But it is evident that he is only urging the necessity of *caution in the use of language*, so as to avoid giving offence. He does not attempt to shew that there is any error or sin in offering relative divine worship to the images of Christ. He argues that it is unadvisable to *speak* of offering such honours, because the Councils and Fathers have not used

signo prout Dominicam passionem ad mentem revocat, Latriam impartiamur. Jac. de Graffis, Decisiones Aureæ, Pars i. l. ii. c. ii. p. 115. Ed. Taurini, 1597.

<sup>1</sup> Franc. Sales. in Tract. Apologiæ de Vexillo Crucis præfixo.

<sup>m</sup> Bellarmine, De Reliquiis Sanct. lib. ii. c. xx.

<sup>n</sup> Secunda propositio: Quantum ad *modum loquendi*, præsertim in concione ad populum, non est *dicendum* imagines ullas adorari debere Latriâ, sed è contrario non debere sic adorari. Ibid. c. xxii.

such language ; because it may be dangerous to the people ; and because “ This mode of speaking offends the ears of (some) Catholics, *and affords to heretics an occasion for blaspheming more boldly*.” But as for *the thing itself*, he is of opinion that “ it may be admitted that images may be worshipped *impropriè* or *per accidens*, with the same sort of worship as their original<sup>p</sup> ;” or, as he explains it, that the image of Christ may be adored with the worship due to Christ Himself, not *per se*, but as it *represents* and *is in the place of* its original<sup>q</sup>. In fine, he shews that his view is in accordance with that of Aquinas and the schoolmen generally ; thus recognizing their authority, and attesting the prevalence of their doctrine in the Church of Rome.

I shall pass over various proofs of the prevalence of such views which might be deduced from the

<sup>o</sup> Quintò, iste modus loquendi offendit aures Catholicorum, et præbet occasionem hæreticis liberius blasphemandi. Ibid.

<sup>p</sup> Tertia propositio : Si de *re ipsa* agatur, admitti potest, imagines posse coli *impropriè*, vel *per accidens*, *eodem genere cultûs*, quo exemplar ipsum colitur. cap. xxiii.

<sup>q</sup> Ac primùm, quod imago possit coli *impropriè* eo cultu quo ipsum exemplar, probatur : nam aliquando imago accipitur *pro ipso exemplari*, et ea, quæ fierent circa ipsum exemplar si adesset præsens, fiunt circa imaginem, mente tamen defixâ in exemplari. . . . Tunc autem *propriè* nullus honor defertur imagini, sed soli exemplari : tamen *impropriè* dici potest ipsa etiam imago honorari.

Quòd autem possit imago adorari adoratione ipsius exemplaris, *propriè* quidem, sed *per accidens*, probatur : nam aliquando . . . . consideramus exemplar *ut objectivè relucet in imagine* : et ipsum sic repræsentatum, et quasi vestitum imagine veneramur, &c. Ibid.

writings of Turrianus, Stapleton, Costerus, Tannerus<sup>r</sup>, and others of your theologians, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and proceed to testimonies of a later date.

9. Amort, in his Theology, published under the auspices of Pope Benedict XIV. in 1752, distinctly maintains this doctrine. In reply to the question : “ What is sufficient and requisite in order that the worship of LATRIA (respectively at least) be exhibited to any thing,” answers thus : “ It is sufficient and requisite that God desires to be honoured with an excellent worship *in that thing or image*, as the immediate instruments of our salvation and of His own glory. . . . It is moreover requisite that the thing should have been adopted by Christ to share in His glory, and commanded to be honoured, and that this should have been manifested to us by some sign either tacit or express. But this was manifested to us concerning all the parts of His body assumed to glory in the resurrection, and concerning His five wounds which He retained in glory, and concerning THE CROSS. . . . Since therefore Christ glories in His wounds and His Cross, and Christians also glory in it, it was fitting that God should desire the OTHER INSTRUMENTS, (i. e. the nails, sponge, &c.) of our salvation and

<sup>r</sup> Turrianus, apud Cabrer. p. 641; Stapleton, Prompt. Cathol. part. i. p. 292; Coster. Enchirid. p. 438, 439; Tanner. in 2. Thom. disp. 4. th. 48.

His glory, (assumed to glory) to be held by us in exceeding reverence<sup>s</sup>," &c.

Hence it appears that the Cross and other instruments of Christ's Passion are to be adored with Latria, according to the doctrine of Aquinas. The same author allows that images of *God* and of the *Holy Trinity* may be publicly worshipped, provided that they are made in a certain manner<sup>t</sup>; and the context renders it evident that he considers Latria to be the proper worship due to such images.

10. The doctrine of Dens on this subject is of peculiar importance, as his work is an esteemed manual of the Romish priesthood in these countries at the present day. I shall therefore quote from this writer at some length.

"With what worship are the images of Christ and the Saints to be venerated?"

"St. Thomas replies to the question, that images may be honoured *with the same worship with which their prototypes are honoured*, but only with a relative or respective worship: whence the images of Saints are worshipped with the respective worship of Dulia; those of the blessed Virgin with the relative worship of Hyperdulia; *those of CHRIST and of GOD with the respective worship of LATRIA* [Christi et Dei respectivo Latriæ cultu.] Many however maintain that this respective worship given to images ought to be less than the worship given to their prototypes: and hence they infer that the worship of Latria is due to no image. They depend on the seventh Synod, which says that Latria is not to be given

<sup>s</sup> Amort. Theologia, tom. xxi. p. 235-237.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. p. 237.



to images because it befits the Divine nature only. But others explain the seventh Synod (as speaking) of *absolute* Latria, which is not due to the images of Christ, although the respective worship of Latria be due to them; and they are adored with honour less than that due to the prototype: which doctrines are not repugnant to each other. However it may be, let it be enough for us against the Sectaries, that all Catholics teach and prove that images of the Saints are to be venerated<sup>u</sup>.

“ With what worship are relics honoured ?

“ In a mode and with a worship like that with which the images of Christ and the Saints are worshipped (according to what was said, Num. xxvii.) and thus, *with the same worship with which the person whose relics they are*, but a relative or respective worship. . . . Objection 2. A pious son does not honour the instruments of contumely with which his father was slain: therefore a Christian ought not to worship *the Cross, or the other instruments* of the death of Christ, or of the martyrs. . . . I deny it. . . . We worship *the Cross, &c.* . . . inasmuch as they were the instruments of the victorious Passion and exaltation, which were also sanctified by *the contact* of the Body of Christ or of the Saints<sup>x</sup>.

“ Is the blessed Virgin to be honoured with the respective worship of *Latria*, on account of the contact of Christ, as THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS ADORED ? . . . Thomas replies in the negative. The difference is, because the Cross is an inanimate thing, the worship of which is in itself only respective,” &c.<sup>y</sup>

11. I shall now produce an example of the sort of instruction which is given to the people on such

<sup>u</sup> Dens, Theologia, tom. v. p. 45.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid. p. 47.      <sup>y</sup> Ibid. p. 48.



subjects at the present day. The following extracts are made from a Catechism of "Christian doctrine," printed at Florence in 1837.

*M.* What is adoration? [*l'adorazione*].

*D.* An act of religion, with which we worship the Divine Majesty, and submit ourselves to Him in acknowledgment of His supreme dominion.

*M.* Of what kind is it?

*D.* Of three kinds; Latria, which is paid to God; Hyperdulia, which is paid to the Virgin; Dulia, which is paid to the Saints.

*M.* Ought we to pay any adoration at all to the images of Christ, or of the Virgin, or of the Saints?

*D.* If we consider them only in themselves as a sacred and blessed thing, we shew them that respect only which we feel towards a sacred and blessed thing; but considered as the *representative* of a Saint, we ought to adore them with the same kind of adoration with which we adore the Saint which they represent<sup>z</sup>.

12. In fine, the Roman Pontifical fully confirms and authorizes the same doctrine. It expressly asserts that "*LATRIA is due to the Cross*<sup>a</sup>," i. e. to

<sup>z</sup> "Considerate come rappresentative di un Santo, si debbono adorare con quell' adorazione, con cui si adora quel Santo che rappresentano." Dottrina Cristiana composta dal Sacerdote Francesco Baldini Paroco dei SS. Vito e Modesto All'Incisa. Firenze, nella Stamperia Brazzini, 1837.

<sup>a</sup> Ille qui gladium Imperatori præfert, et alius crucem Legati, portans simul ire debent. Crux Legati, quia debetur ei Latria erit à dexteris, et gladius Imperatoris à sinistris. Ordo ad recipiendum procession. Imperat. Pontificale Romanum Clementis VIII. p. 672. Ed. Rom. 1595; Pont. Rom. Urban. VIII. Pars iii. p. 109. Paris. 1664; Pont. Rom. p. 571. Typis Vaticanis, 1745.

an *image* of the Cross, a position which contains the doctrine of Aquinas and the schoolmen, that *the same worship is due to an image as to the original*; and from which it follows that images of the Trinity, of God, of Christ, and of the Cross, as well as relics of the Cross, are to be worshipped with LATRIA.

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It has now been proved that IDOLATROUS WORSHIP OF IMAGES AND RELICS, has been authorized and sanctioned by the leading Divines of the Roman Communion from the time of the Council of Trent to the present day. Here none of the subterfuges so commonly resorted to by Romanists can avail them. It is in vain that they exclaim "that they pay no divine honours to the images or relics of the *Saints*." We reply, that *this is not our charge*. We only charge their Divines with recommending the worship of images of Christ, of God, of the Trinity, of the Cross, of the Virgin; and relics of Christ, of the true Cross, and of the instruments of the Passion. It is in vain also that they protest "that they do not offer Divine honours to images." We understand their distinctions. They do not worship images *per se*, or as they are so much wood or stone; they worship them as *representatives* of their originals. They can therefore deny that they worship images, while at the same time they do in reality worship them most devotedly. It is in vain also that they assure us that they do not worship images "as Gods," or "for Gods," or

“instead of God ;” for we know that they do not believe that an image of God is itself God ; and do not worship it as such. They worship it however as the *representative* of God : and in this view give to it the honours due to God Himself. Such are the subterfuges to which Romanists are driven in their attempt to elude the charge of idolatry.

But it may be alleged, that such doctrines are merely discussed in the theological schools, and never enter into popular instruction ; that consequently there is no idolatry in fact practised amongst the people.

Now in the first place it will be observed, that I have quoted a Catechism intended for *popular instruction*, and printed only five years ago, in which it is plainly inculcated that the same kind of adoration is due to an image as to its original. From which it follows, that divine honours are due to certain images. I would next remark, that the doctrines above mentioned have never been restricted to the schools ; for Bellarmine thinks it necessary to recommend that in sermons to the people it should not be said that Latria is due to images<sup>b</sup> ; and on the other hand, Vasquez is of opinion that, in popular discourses, the method of the old schoolmen, who absolutely affirmed that Latria is due to them, is preferable<sup>c</sup>. Cabrera also supposes that

<sup>b</sup> Bellarmin. De Reliquiis Sanct. l. ii. c. xxii.

<sup>c</sup> Vasquez, De Cultu Adorationis Libri Tres, l. ii. disp. ix. c. i. p. 374.

these doctrines are known to the people<sup>d</sup>. There is in fact no sort of attempt to conceal them; except indeed from the opponents of Romanism.

Supposing however that they were not expressly taught to the people, the danger of idolatry would scarcely be in the slightest degree diminished. For it is undeniable that Romanists are taught to “worship” and “adore” images: the use of those words is continual. But, according to the “Declaration of the Vicars Apostolic,” “the words ‘adoration’ and ‘worship’ are *equally* referred, sometimes to God, and sometimes to creatures<sup>e</sup>.” Veron says that “*certainly* the people understand by the word ‘adoration’ *the absolute worship of LATRIA<sup>f</sup>*”; and the Wallemburghs affirm that the people “*often* understand the word ‘adoration’ as signifying the *highest honour due only to God, which we call LATRIA<sup>g</sup>*.” Hence it follows necessarily, that the perpetual inculcation in the Roman Communion of the worship and adoration of images leads the people into idolatry.

The mere profession of the Christian religion is no more an infallible safeguard against idolatry than it is against heresy or any other sin. Bossuet himself admits that “there might be some reason

<sup>d</sup> Cabrera, in iii. part. S. Thomæ. tom. ii. p. 555. Ed. 1602.

<sup>e</sup> Declaration, &c. Sect. iv.

<sup>f</sup> Certè populus intelligit adorationis nomine cultum Latriæ absolutum; iste autem sine dubio non redditur nisi soli Deo. Veron, Regula Fidei, § viii.

<sup>g</sup> Wallenburch, Controvers. tom. ii. p. 206.

to fear for the ignorant," that the use of images would lead them to "idolatry<sup>h</sup>." That man is naturally inclined to this sin is evident from the fact, that the great majority of the world has been at all times actually involved in it, and that even the *chosen people of God* under the former dispensation became, to a great extent, worshippers of false gods. Hence there can be no sort of assurance that the mere profession of true religion affords any security against idolatry.

But it is frequently alleged that the Council of Trent enacted certain decrees on the subject of images and relics which removed all danger of idolatrous worship. To this I have to answer first, that all the writers whom I have cited lived after the Council of Trent, and were so far from admitting that their doctrine was condemned in that Council, that they continually adduce the decrees of Trent in confirmation of their own views. Secondly, it is evident on examination that the Council of Trent made no decision against the doctrines of Aquinas and the schoolmen on these points. Thirdly, Veron, after mentioning the different doctrines of the schoolmen as to the worship of images and relics, says, that the Council of Trent observes a prudent silence as to these opinions, "and teaches nothing else but that 'due honour and veneration is to be rendered to them.' Wherefore none of the aforesaid (doctrines) is *de fide*: therefore let them

<sup>h</sup> Veron, *ubi supra*.



be kept within the bounds of the schools. You are not obliged to subscribe to any of them in order to be a Catholic. Subscribe the Council of Trent only<sup>i</sup>," &c. So that, notwithstanding the decrees of the Council of Trent, members of the Roman Communion are at perfect liberty to maintain that Divine honours are due to certain images and relics.

From what has been said it follows necessarily that YOU CANNOT WARN YOUR PEOPLE against offering relative LATRIA or *Divine honours* to the images and relics which I have mentioned, AS AGAINST A SIN. For in the first place, the Council of Trent has not made any decision against the practice. Secondly, your most eminent theologians have generally maintained it, and have never been censured for so doing by any Popes, Councils, or Bishops. Thirdly, those theologians have maintained that their doctrine is supported by the Fathers, by theological reasons, by the general consent of theologians, by the practice of the Roman Church, and by several General Councils, including that of Trent; and according to the doctrine of probability generally received by Romanists, it is perfectly safe to receive any doctrine supported by such grave reasons. Fourthly, the doctrine of Aquinas and the schoolmen is regularly maintained in your schools at the present day. Hence it is plain that you cannot by any possibility teach your people that the above-mentioned idolatrous worship of images and relics is a sin. You

<sup>i</sup> Veron, *ubi supra*.



are on the contrary obliged to admit to them that it is lawful, and that it is not idolatrous.

Hence we may turn over all your Treatises on Doctrinal and Moral Theology; all your directions to Confessors; all your Catechisms and books of devotion; and never find in any of them any *condemnation* of the practice of offering Latria to the images and relics which I have mentioned. It is true, that some of your writers *argue* against it: but none of them venture to *condemn* it; or to say that it is *sinful*; or that it is in any degree *idolatrous*. It forms no subject of confession: no penitent is ever questioned on the point: no one is ever put to penance for offering Divine honours to created objects. Idolatry is, perhaps, the most prevalent of your sins, and it is that which is the most easily tolerated. It would seem to be the object of your writers to close every avenue by which a conviction of danger on this point could be brought home to the consciences of your people. Every doubt and scruple is set at rest by the assurances of your theologians, that Idolatry consists in worshipping images as if they were “other Gods,” in *opposition* to the only true God<sup>j</sup>—or in worshipping the images of *false gods* like those of the Heathen—or in imagining that the Divinity is *present* in images—or in offering *sacrifice* to images<sup>k</sup>. They are told, that there is *no danger of idolatry* amongst Chris-

<sup>j</sup> Trevern, Discuss. Amicale, tom. ii. p. 336, 339.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. p. 341.

tians:—"Now that Christianity has reigned amongst us for so many centuries, what danger can be seen in images, when the faithful learn from their infancy that they are forbidden 'to ask any grace from them, or to place their confidence in them,' . . . and that if they prostrate themselves, and bend their knees before them, it is only to the *originals*, i. e. to Jesus Christ and the Saints, that this suppliant posture is referred<sup>1</sup>?" Thus Romanists are encouraged to commit acts of the most fearful Idolatry without the slightest compunction or trouble of conscience. They are satisfied that they *cannot* commit Idolatry; and, therefore, indulge in it without any check or control whatever.

I have now accomplished the object which was proposed in this Letter. I have shewn that Idolatry is approved and authorized in the Church of Rome; that it is practised without any censure or effectual resistance; that your people are allowed to commit this most fearful of all sins without impediment or scruple. What are we to conclude from this?

First, may it not be most reasonably inferred, that if the authorities of your Communion do not actually themselves practise Idolatry, they are surrounded by an overwhelming mass of Idolatry; that the people and their priests are to a great extent given over to that dreadful sin? Surely, nothing but the power and number of those who are inclined to Idolatry could prevent your Rulers from vin-

<sup>1</sup> Trevern, Discuss. Amicale, tom. ii. p. 352.

dicating the rights of their Creator, if they really believed that those rights were infringed. We must therefore conclude, either that your *Rulers*, as well as your divines and people, *approve* of idolatrous worship; or else, that *through fear of man*, they connive at what they know to be most damnable sin. In either case, what are we to think of the *sanctity* of the Roman Church? What are we to think of the *safety* of its members? And what are we to think of those who forsake a Communion in which Idolatry is not practised, to enter one in which it is approved, sanctioned, and practised without the least check or control?

Secondly, from what has been said, we cannot doubt the necessity of THE REFORMATION. If the only result of that movement had been to *expel* from amongst us the doctrines of Aquinas and the schoolmen on the worship of images and relics, and to enable us to oppose an effectual and open resistance to those doctrines by pronouncing them sinful and idolatrous, *an incalculable benefit* would have been obtained—a benefit which was more than sufficient to counterbalance numerous evils and disadvantages.

Thirdly, we may learn to judge more fairly of the Reformers. They were brought up in the midst of a system deeply tinged with Idolatry, both in doctrine and practice. They understood by experience, and saw in all its unveiled deformity, what we can only learn imperfectly from scarce and

ancient writings, or from modern compositions, in which the utmost care is taken to conceal the real state of things. Their language and their actions, therefore, sometimes appear to us exaggerated or uncharitable, when the fault lies rather in our own ignorance or credulity. Were we possessed of their *practical knowledge*, we should perhaps exceed them ourselves in the energy of our denunciations.

Fourthly, we can sympathize with the feelings and principles of Bishop Jewell and other English Reformers, who were jealous of the use of images, and of certain vestments or ceremonies connected more or less, in their own minds, with idolatrous practices. Certainly the Cross and the images of our Lord had been worshipped with idolatrous honours; and we cannot therefore wonder at the indignation which was sometimes expressed on matters which we, in our ignorance of the fearful abuses connected with them, may regard as innocent, lawful, or even pious and venerable.

Fifthly, if some errors or defects can be pointed out in the doctrine or discipline of societies which are separated from the Roman Communion, yet still they cannot be greater evils than the existence of IDOLATRY in that Communion. If some persons deny the necessity of Episcopacy; their error is not greater than that of maintaining that the Bishop of Rome is *de jure divino* the Head of the Church. If some sects undervalue Confirmation: Rome gives but half of the Eucharist.

If the worship of others is meagre or uninteresting, Rome sanctions the adoration of creatures with Divine honours. If repentance is almost reduced to a name by some, Rome deprives the penitent of all consolation, and pursues the justified and pardoned beyond the grave with the tortures of hell. If some Churches are divided on trivial points and by carnal spirits, Rome enforces unity and silence on points where the most sacred interests of the truth and the glory of God are compromised. If there are needless disputes on words in some communities, Rome permits heresy and idolatry within her own bosom. If some have schismatically separated from the Church, Rome has wrongfully expelled many from her communion. If there be a spirit of incredulity in some; Rome encourages fabulous miracles, and impostures of every kind. If some persons seem in theory to supersede the office of the ministry, by the assertion of an unlimited right of interpreting the Bible according to the dictates of their private judgment, Rome discourages the perusal of the Scriptures, and withdraws them from the Church. If the ministry in some communities is despoiled of much of its legitimate influence, Rome invests it with absolute and inquisitorial power, and teaches the people to bow before it with a superstitious and almost slavish veneration. If some persons are hostile even to the most harmless ceremonies, Rome encourages a system of display and worldly



pomp in the celebration of worship. If enthusiasm and fanaticism are common in sects, Rome invests the wildest fanaticism with saintly dignity, and holds it up to the worship of the faithful. If sordid self-interest has commonly been at the foundation of sects, Rome has permitted discipline to be relaxed, and superstition and idolatry to be disseminated more and more widely, for the pecuniary advantage of its priesthood, and for the promotion of its own interests. There are, in short, very few of the prevalent evils of religion beyond the Roman Communion, which may not be contrasted with evils of as great an amount, or even still greater, within that Communion.

In conclusion, I would observe, that if any members of the Church of England are ever disturbed on finding that some others of its members have advanced unsound positions, and that such persons have not been censured as they deserve ; still they should remember that we at least can openly resist and denounce false doctrines, and thus guard the faithful against their reception ; while in the Church of Rome IDOLATRY exercises *unresisted* sway ; and priest and people are consigned to its abominations, without a single warning voice to tell them that they are in the ways of sin and of eternal death. I do not mean to say that all members of the Church of Rome are *obliged* to commit this crime ; nor do I pretend to say that all *actually do* commit it. God alone knows the extent to which it prevails ;



but it is certain that there is no safeguard whatever against it in the Roman Communion except the special grace of God ; and we therefore fervently hope and pray that this grace may abound, to the deliverance of many souls from so great and terrible a danger.

I remain, Sir,

Yours in Christ,

WILLIAM PALMER.

*Oxford, March 8, 1842.*



AN  
EXAMINATION

OF THE

REV. R. W. SIBTHORP'S REASONS

FOR HIS

SECESSION FROM THE CHURCH.

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## AN EXAMINATION,

&c.

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WHEN a man of reputed worth and piety commits some grievous crime, or falls into some most dangerous error, we are startled and almost confounded by a variety of contending emotions. At one moment we doubt whether reliance can be placed on any of those around us; and perhaps the very firmest principles of our own minds may receive a momentary shock. At another, we are inclined to attribute to infirmity or aberration of intellect; to innate depravity, or passion, or indiscretion, the fatal and melancholy events which we contemplate.

But such doubts and reasonings arise in a great measure from an erroneous estimate of the nature of man and of the strength of his temptations. We unconsciously persuade ourselves, that earnestness in religion is a sort of infallible safeguard against sin and error; and satisfied with the evidence on which we have ourselves received moral and religious truths, we are disposed to underrate the force of those arguments by which error sustains itself. This disposition of mind occasionally leads

men conscious of their own sincerity to place themselves too readily in the way of temptation, by embarking in discussions to which their attainments and capacities are wholly inadequate; and the result is, that many souls have “made shipwreck of their faith,” who, under a deeper and juster feeling of man’s infirmity, and of his dangers, would have continued in the enjoyment of those privileges to which Divine Grace had called them.

Errors which appear to have a very slender foundation at first sight, will, when they are more closely considered, require the profoundest learning and sagacity to refute them. Our moral sense and religious principles cause us at once to revolt from many positions, which, if we were to examine and discuss them more closely, and to think ourselves bound to answer all the arguments adduced in favour of them, might perhaps appear in a totally different light—might seem to us no longer absurd or impossible—might even assume their place in our minds—unsettle all our preconceived notions, and precipitate us into actions which, at the beginning, we should have contemplated with dismay.

What would be the result, if every one thought himself entitled, on the strength of his belief in Christianity, to examine all the arguments which Infidelity has advanced against it; and to suffer himself to be entangled amidst a thousand artifices, false assertions, and sophistries? It may be predicted with certainty, that a very small proportion



of those who thus rashly threw themselves in the way of temptation, would escape without injury to their faith. Objections and difficulties might be raised in a moment which it would take years of patience and of study to solve. In fact, it cannot be doubted, that many amiable and intelligent men have either been wholly lost to Christianity and to virtue, or most grievously unsettled in their faith, by too rashly listening to the sophistries of Anti-Christian writers.

Heresy, however absurd and monstrous it may appear in many cases, has generally enough of plausibility to recommend it on a nearer view. We have no right to assume, nay we have reason to deny, that all those who have fallen into heresies have been without earnestness in religion, without sincerity, and without intellectual attainments. Piety of a certain sort is perfectly consistent with great and grievous mistakes. One of the most celebrated of the Fathers, a man of the highest genius, erudition, and piety, became a believer in the absurdities of Montanism. Another, who was equally illustrious, denied the eternity of future punishments. Arianism, and other ancient heresies could number amongst their adherents men of genius, and of religious earnestness. Even Socinianism has not always been found united with coldness and want of piety. We underrate too much the strength of arguments which may be advanced in support of error. Unitarianism seems to us absurd

enough ; yet it has advanced arguments which have exercised the minds of the ablest Divines, and which ordinary men would be unable to answer. So also with reference to Dissent—Presbyterianism—the controversies on Infant Baptism—it requires no small degree of information to meet all the difficulties which may be raised on these points ; and those who are embarrassed and confounded by the arguments advanced on one side of these questions, would perhaps be equally embarrassed if they had, in the first instance, considered the other, or had given to it an equal degree of attention.

Thus, the very person perhaps, who is entangled in the sophistries of Romanism, and feels himself unable to reply to its arguments ; would be as much perplexed, if he were attentively to examine some of those interpretations of the prophecies which go to prove that the Pope is Antichrist, and that all who communicate with him are in a state of damnation. He would be as little capable of affording a satisfactory reply in the one case as in the other. Or he would be unable to solve the difficulties advanced by Infidelity ; or to maintain some of the first principles of morality, or the chief of the social duties, against the arguments by which they may be assailed.

The fact then, that men of piety and ability occasionally relinquish the sounder principles of their earlier life, and fall into dangerous errors, affords no presumption that their judgment is

sound, or that their example ought to be followed. It may have arisen from indiscretion, from erroneous impressions of truth, and from a too low estimate of the temptations of error. Its designed effect on us should be to impress on us more forcibly the Scriptural admonition, "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall."

These remarks have been suggested by the lamentable step which Mr. Sibthorp has taken, in separating himself from the Communion of the Church. May this unhappy instance of infirmity become a salutary warning to all her younger members, leading them to greater distrust of their own strength, and a more lively appreciation of the dangers to which an ill-regulated curiosity, exercised on subjects of great delicacy, may expose them ! I cannot but express an opinion, founded on some attention to the subject, that very young persons, necessarily acquainted, but imperfectly, with Ecclesiastical history, and with the elements of Theology, should not in conscience expose themselves to the temptation of perusing the writings of eminent Roman Catholic theologians, and permitting themselves to receive their impressions of that system from works composed with the utmost plausibility, address, and eloquence ; works in which every obnoxious feature is smoothed down ; in which there is much to engage the imagination and the taste ; and in which an accumulation of learning is brought without much scruple or honesty to bear against

the truth. It must surely argue too great a confidence in one's own powers to enter on studies of such a nature, without having previously engaged in theological studies to a considerable extent ; and the Divine blessing cannot be expected to attend on attempts so rash ; so little characterized by Christian humility. It is certainly essential that those who are engaged in the defence of the Church, and in the higher walks of theology, should be fully acquainted with all that may be said by the opponents of the Truth ; but it is not by any means desirable that the laity, or even the younger clergy, in all cases, should enter on this examination.

The case now before us affords an illustration of the dangers which are incurred by a youthful mind in its unequal contest with the subtilties of Romanism. It appears from Mr. Sibthorp's statement, that "in early life he sought admission into that Church, and but for the interference of the Law, being then *under-age*, should have joined her." (p. 3.) We are not informed of the process by which this resolution was brought about ; but there is reason to think that it could only have been caused by intercourse with Romanists of superior age and attainments to his own, and by the perusal of works which his imperfect attainments rendered it impossible for him to answer. The result of this indiscretion was, that he sank beneath the temptation ; and it is clear that, although induced to alter his intentions for the time, impressions were made, from

which his mind was never able entirely to disengage itself, and which predisposed him to the recurrence of the malady when other causes brought it immediately in his path.

By what system of reasoning Mr. Sibthorp was induced to relinquish his intention of becoming a Romanist, and to enter the ministry of the Church, does not appear. But we are not left wholly in ignorance of the principles with which his mind became imbued. It appears, then, in the first place, that he was of opinion, that Protestants, (amongst whom he includes members of the Church of England,) are under a *necessity* of defending the notion that the Church of Christ consists of *all denominations* which agree in fundamental truths, in order to justify their *separation* from the Church of Rome, (p. 28.) It further appears, that he viewed the Church of England as a society, which took its rise at the Reformation (p. 29. 32.); and that he considered her to have *separated herself* from the Church in communion with Rome, on the ground of the errors of Romish doctrine. (p. 36.)

It is evident, then, that Mr. Sibthorp could not have viewed the Church of England in any such light as rendered it a matter of *religious duty* to adhere to her Communion. He identified her with all the surrounding sects. The notion of her descent from the Apostles, seemed to him "startling." (p. 32.) He appears, in short, to have been a stranger to those views which constitute some of the first prin-



ciples of a sound Churchman. Under these circumstances, and with such favourable impressions of Romanism, it is less surprising that he became an easy prey to the temptations by which he was assailed.

I now proceed to examine the arguments which determined his mind to forsake the Communion of the Church, which shall be arranged under various heads.

### *The Levitical Types.*

Mr. Sibthorp's primary argument is founded on the institutions of the Levitical law, as typical of Christianity. Of the existence of such a typical character there can be, of course, no doubt whatever ; but Mr. Sibthorp makes a very untenable assumption when he says that *all*, "from Israel viewed as a nation, down to the smallest ornaments of the Tabernacle," (p. 5.) was typical. There is no warrant for such a belief in Scripture. The Law is indeed "a shadow of good things to come ;" but it does not follow that *every* circumstance and ceremony is typical. Such a supposition leads necessarily to extravagance of interpretation, and probably to serious errors.

The next position (p. 6.) is, that the types of the Law were not fulfilled in Christ *only*—that some had a further fulfilment in the Church ; and that others related to the Church only. I am not prepared to deny the truth of this position to a



certain extent. But surely Mr. Sibthorp can scarcely have been serious when he urges his argument by enquiring, "If all the typical institutions of the old dispensation found their sole and entire accomplishment in Christ, why are any continued in the Christian Church correspondent to them?" (p. 7.)

If he will turn to the pages of any Roman Catholic Divine, he may learn from them even, that *positive institutions of our Lord* are binding on Christians, even although they may not have been *typified* in the Law of Moses.

We are now to examine his *application* of the above principle, and the mode of reasoning by which the Church of Rome is proved to have been typified under the Law.

We must previously, however, offer a few remarks on the nature of a Type. It is clear then that there must be a *difference of nature* between the types of the Law and their anti-types, because the Apostle describes the former as "shadows" of the latter; (Col. ii. 17; Heb. xi.) and there must therefore be as much difference between them as between a shadow and a real body. The types of the Old Testament were always of a different nature from the things which they prefigured: *e. g.* the High-Priest entering the earthly Temple, prefigured Jesus entering Heaven; the earthly Canaan, and the Sabbath, typified the spiritual Canaan, and the rest that remaineth for the people of God. Hence, if we

find under the Christian dispensation, circumstances or institutions *of the same nature* as there were under the Law, they cannot have been *typified* or *prefigured* by the similar legal institutions.

This will at once enable us to see the fallacy of Mr. Sibthorp's reasoning. He argues that the external, visible unity of faith, worship, and discipline under the Law, *typifies* a similar unity under the Gospel, (p. 8.) and that the Church of Rome alone is in possession of such an unity. But it is clear that the unity of the Jewish people, if it typified any thing at all, must have typified something of a different nature from its own. It could not typify *the visible unity of the Church*: it *might* have typified its mystical union in the body of Christ.

For the same reason the Jewish High-Priest could not have typified any similar visible functionary in the Church of Christ, (p. 8, 9.) nor could the Priests and Levites with their offices, ceremonies, and mystical vestments, (p. 9.) have been types of any *similar* institutions or classes in the Church<sup>a</sup>. Nor could the "impressive and magnificent ritual," (p. 9.) or the feast-days of Israel, (p. 10.) prefigure the *same things* in Christianity.

Now this being the case—and I cannot think that any reasonable mind can fail to see it imme-

<sup>a</sup> The Fathers always speak of *Bishops*, *Priests*, and *Deacons*, as holding offices corresponding to those of *Aaron*, the *Priests* and *Levites*. E. g. Tertullian, *De Baptismo*, c. xvii; Optatus *De Schism. Don.* lib. ii; Hieronymus, *Epist. ad Evagrium*; Leo, *Epist.* 162.

diately—Mr. Sibthorp's leading argument is at once disposed of; for it is clear that there is no evidence from the types of the Law adduced by him, that the Church was to retain *visible union* at all times *under a visible head*, or to possess a priesthood or a ceremonial distinguished by splendour and magnificence. The utmost that can be deduced is, that such institutions are not *unlawful*.

The typical meaning which Mr. Sibthorp assigns to the Presence of God in the Temple, the seven-fold light, and the Cherubim (p. 9. 11.), (which he supposes to prefigure respectively the Real Presence, the Seven Sacraments, and intercourse with Angels and Saints,) is certainly more in accordance with the nature of the relation between a type and its antitype; but it is clearly to a great degree *conjectural*; and is merely *one* amongst many applications of those symbols which might be made with equal probability. For example, the presence of God in His Temple may not have been designed to prefigure any real presence in the Eucharist: it may have been the type of His indwelling in the believer's soul. The seven-fold light may refer to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as Bede and other Fathers understand it<sup>b</sup>; and indeed it is clear, that Mr. Sibthorp's view could not have been taken by any writer before the twelfth century, as the earliest authors who mention *seven* Sacraments lived at that time<sup>c</sup>. The

<sup>b</sup> Bede, De Tabernaculo, c. 17; Oper. tom. iv. p. 1193.

<sup>c</sup> Hugo S. Victor and Peter Lombard, A. D. 1130 and 1140.

Cherubim again, may have signified merely the ministrations of Angels round the Throne of God, and may not have had any typical character with reference to the Christian Church. In the interpretation of all those types and symbols there must always be a great degree of uncertainty where we are not distinctly guided to their meaning by the word of God, or even by the concurrent voice of Catholic Antiquity. The same remarks apply to Mr. Sibthorp's view of the "daily Sacrifice" as typical of the Sacrifice of the Mass. (p. 9. 11.) Supposing that the type was not in this case solely accomplished in our Lord, still there is no *proof* that it refers to the Eucharist; and the Fathers interpret it as typifying the Prayers and Services which every Christian is bound to offer daily<sup>d</sup>.

We may therefore lay aside the argument from the typical character of the Levitical institutions, and proceed to other points. Mr. Sibthorp, in proof of the necessity of visible unity in the Church refers to the *prayer* of our Lord, "that they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in Me," &c. (p. 11.) Surely this does not amount to a *prediction* that the Church was actually to be at all times united. It proves nothing more than our Saviour's earnest desire that it might be so, and the probability that it might not at all times be perfectly one. St. Paul

<sup>d</sup> Vide Origen. In Numer. Hom. xxiii. tom. ii. p. 358; Hilar. Pictav. Oper. p. 535; Basil. Oper. tom. ii. p. 52; Chrysost. tom. v. p. 149, 430; Beda, tom. iv. p. 1272.

*urges the duty of union* amongst Christians by their community of faith and hope ; “ There is one body and one spirit, as you are called in one hope of your calling ; one Lord, one faith, one baptism,” &c. This merely shews that it is the duty of Christians to avoid divisions : it does not assure us that it was impossible that the Church should ever be, in fact, divided.

Had not Mr. Sibthorp been carried away by early prejudices, and by his theory of the Levitical types, he would doubtless have remembered the innumerable instances in which the unity of Christendom has, most undeniably, been interrupted. He would have dwelt on the divisions in the Corinthian Church, even in the Apostolic age ; on the separation between the Churches of Rome and Asia in the second century ; between those of Rome and Africa in the third ; between the Eastern and Western Churches in the fifth, the ninth, and the eleventh centuries ; and in fine, between the various Churches subject to the Papacy, in the fourteenth century. He would have remembered, that the most eminent Romish Divines acknowledge that in very many instances where the external and visible unity of the Church was interrupted, the promises of Christ to His Church were still fulfilled, and were inherited alike by each of the contending parties. But it cannot be denied that in all these cases the *visible* unity of the Church was interrupted.



Had Mr. Sibthorp permitted himself to contemplate these facts, he would not have thought it necessary to forsake the Church of England because her extent was "limited" or her position "insulated." (p. 12.) He would have perceived that such circumstances did not militate against her claim to be a *part* of the Universal Church, though not in external communion with some other branches of it. He would indeed have lamented the divisions of the Universal Church; but would not have deemed it necessary to separate himself from a pure and sound branch of that Church, and to unite himself to a schismatical community which a corrupt though large branch of the Church had planted amongst us. He would have apprehended, that such an act of schism and of heedlessness to the revealed Truth, however applauded by party, would have as effectually and really separated him from the promises of God, as if he had openly dis severed himself from Christianity and from all its hopes. He would have been satisfied, that a Church, which at her foundation, as he admits, (p. 13.) had been united with the whole Christian Church; which had been peacefully derived from that Church by spiritual propagation; and which had never, at any subsequent period, *separated herself* from the communion of the rest of the Christian world, or *been excommunicated* by the authority of the Church at large, was always entitled to the most devoted adherence, most zealous attachment, and most dutiful obedience of all her



members—on the highest and most sacred of all principles—Obedience to the Divine Will.

*Arguments for the Papacy from Reason and  
Scripture.*

Were the kingdom of Christ not directed and guided by the secret influence of the Spirit of God, we might readily assent to Mr. Sibthorp's argument for the necessity of a visible Head and Centre of Unity in the Church, from analogies derived from the natural works of the Creator and the rational institutions of men. But when we are assured of *Christ's* presence, (Matt. xxviii. 20.) and of the aid of the "*Spirit of Truth*;" (John xvi. 13.) when we believe that these divine promises are especially made to the successors of the Apostles as rulers of the Universal Church, we cannot but think that it evinces a distrust in the Divine guidance, to urge the necessity of a visible Head and Centre of Unity. Is not God Himself sufficient to guide His Church?

The analogy of God's natural government of the world would lead us to infer that He has *not* constituted any one spiritual Head of the Church; for the world is not subject to any one central government: it is divided into innumerable states. Nor does the analogy of the Mosaic dispensation lead us to suppose a visible head of the Universal Church necessary; because it might be very convenient and possible to place the people of one small country under a High Priest, while it might be most ex-

tremely inconvenient and unfit to subject the *whole world* to a single Individual.

We now turn to Mr. Sibthorp's argument for the Papal Supremacy from Scripture. He refers to the well-known passages from Matt. xvi. 16—19, and John xxi. 15—17, and to the peculiar position held by St. Peter in Acts ii, iii, iv, x, xii. In reply to the objection which naturally occurs both from Scripture and from the united voice of Catholic tradition, that the *powers* given to St. Peter, by our Lord, were also imparted equally to all the other Apostles, Mr. Sibthorp says, "It is not correct that what is allowed to have been once appropriated to St. Peter was afterwards made common to all the Apostles. No other Apostle shared his office in the formation of the Church. To no other Apostle was such a solemn exhortation given, to feed the flock of God, as to him. And though the Lord did afterwards give the power of the keys to all the Apostles, that no more affected the previous distinction of the separate gift to him, than the Lord's calling all His Apostles beloved, affects the claim of St. John to be pre-eminently the beloved disciple." (p. 17.)

This is all very true, but it will not avail either to shew the jurisdiction of St. Peter over the other Apostles, or the transmission of such a Supremacy to the Bishops of Rome. The privileges of St. Peter were strictly personal and incapable of transmission. The Church could only be once founded by his preaching. The Gentiles could be introduced for

the first time into the kingdom of Heaven by his means but once. If he was peculiarly exhorted to feed the Church of God in proof of his love, he alone had denied Christ. There is not a shadow of presumption that the special privileges of St. Peter could have extended beyond himself or been transmitted to any successors.

This will suffice to shew the fallacy of Mr. Sibthorp's argument for the existence of a "Primacy and Centre of Unity in the Church" after the time of St. Peter, derived from our Saviour's having left the Church "in constant expectation of His return," and His expecting, "to find her so constituted and united, whether He delayed His coming for twenty or two thousand years." (p. 18.) For it is plain that St. Peter had no jurisdiction over the Apostles; that his privileges were only marks of honour; that they were incapable of being communicated to others.

Mr. Sibthorp is obliged to concede that in the earlier ages of the Church there was not "that clear perception of the designed *succession* to St. Peter, which the ninth and tenth centuries present," (p. 19.) and he speaks of "the development" of the Papacy as being gradual. But does not this afford a strong presumption against its Divine origin? For what was the conduct of God when He appointed a Head of the Jewish Church? Was not the office and jurisdiction of the High Priest most distinctly instituted? Was not its succession provided for? Did it not spring at once into existence, in the full

possession of all its powers? Was it left to be *developed*—and developed too, by *usurpation*? Was its full recognition left to the days of corruption and idolatry; or was it not at once received, in the purest and brightest days of the Jewish religion? If the Papacy had been instituted by God, it would not have been left to *develop* itself, by invading the liberties of all Churches; by absorbing the rights of the Episcopate; by exciting wars, rebellions, and persecutions; by deposing Sovereigns; by claiming and obtaining temporal jurisdiction over a great part of the world: and, in fine, by dividing the Christian Church by its ambition, and supporting errors and superstitions by its obstinacy. God would not have instituted in His Church a power thus *vague and undefined*, which was inevitably destined, under favourable opportunities, to make claims and aggressions, subversive of Christian liberty and perilous to Christian truth.

That the evils of which the Papacy has poured such a flood on the Church, have not been unmingled with occasional advantages, I am far from meaning to deny. The wisdom of God is never more admirable, than in its production of good from evil. How few evils are unmingled; and how much eventual benefit is frequently derived from actions and events in themselves most lamentable and destructive! But this should never blind us to the *actual* calamities of such actions or events; and there is so much of evil connected with the

development of the Papal Supremacy, that be its incidental results what they may, the Christian must ever deplore its existence, and must "set his face like a flint" against its claims.

If Bishop Horsley ever remarked that, "we want a Patriarch of the West," (p. 21.) it by no means follows that he was of opinion that such a functionary was necessary as "a centre of unity." It is possible that a central authority in the West, might be thought desirable by some persons, who would object to the institution of a *universal* Patriarch. And it is possible that others might not object to the institution of a universal Patriarch, provided there were no assumption of Divine right, and the office were regulated in all respects by the laws of the Church. Such notions one may conceive to have existed amongst some of those who have most strongly objected to the Papacy.

Mr. Sibthorp thinks that the promise to St. Peter, like that made to the Apostles, (Matt. xxviii. 20.) implies a *perpetual succession* to the office of that Apostle. Surely he forgets, that in the one case there was no promise of perpetuity; while in the other it was said, "Lo, I am with you *always, even to the end of the world.*"

### *Arguments from the Necessity of Unity in Doctrine and Discipline.*

It is very true, that "every deviation from that government or form of Christ's Church *which He*



*gave it*, and from that discipline and worship which *He personally or by His Apostles* approved, is a most presumptuous innovation, and a daring disregard of the Divine will, and fraught with danger to the souls of men." (p. 23.) And hence we readily admit, or rather most firmly maintain, with the Church of England, that all sects or denominations, even supposing them to hold what are called *fundamental* doctrines, are not included in the Church of Christ. I shall therefore pass without comment Mr. Sibthorp's arguments against this wild and latitudinarian notion, (p. 24—29.) and proceed to his remarks on the position maintained by those who believe the Church of England to be a Catholic and Apostolic Church.

"Their view," he says, "on which they (in great part) justify their continuance in their present position of separation from the Catholic Church in communion with the See of Rome is, that the present Anglican Church is *identically* one and the same with that which St. Augustine planted in the sixth century, over which St. Thomas of Canterbury presided in the twelfth, and Warham at the commencement of the sixteenth; as properly therefore a part of the Catholic Church under the presidency of Archbishop Howley as she ever was. This asserted unity is surely not of a very obvious kind, but liable to some serious difficulties." (p. 29, 30.)

I am ready to admit the general correctness of this statement, with proper exceptions. It is not



contended by any one that the Church of England is now identically one and the same with the ancient Church of England in all respects. She is now reformed: previously to the Reformation she was unreformed. She is now pure: she was formerly, for a time, tinged with Romish corruptions. This variety in her condition does not destroy her real identity, though it may render that identity less *evident*. Her unity may not be “of a very *obvious* kind,” and may be “liable to some *difficulties*,” as Mr. Sibthorp asserts it to be; and yet it may be perfectly real and certain notwithstanding.

To test its validity, Mr. Sibthorp supposes the above-named four distinguished individuals to meet in conference, and asks, “Will they concur in doctrine, discipline, or Church government? Are they in a visible or a real unity on any of these topics among themselves? Quite the reverse.” (p. 30.)

Let us see how far this assertion is borne out. In the first place then, those four prelates would receive the *same three Creeds*—the Nicene, the Athanasian, and that of the Apostles. They would equally condemn all the heresies condemned by the six Œcumenical Synods. They would coincide in their belief in opposition to Arianism, Pelagianism, Sabellianism, Socinianism, and the Nestorian and Eutychian heresies. They would alike receive Baptism, the Eucharist, Confirmation, Ordination, Repentance and Absolution, the power of the keys, and many other acts, rites, and ceremonies. In

respect to discipline and Church government, they would alike recognise a ministry of three orders, as derived from Apostolic institution, and would accord entirely on the powers of those orders respectively. Is this nothing like unity? Does it not demonstrate a real and absolute unity on a vast number of the most important points in religion?

“Can they worship at the same altar?” (p. 30.) Yes, most assuredly: at least there is nothing to prevent the present Archbishop from uniting in public worship with St. Augustine and Thomas à Becket. And certainly there is nothing in our present service which could have displeased Warham, or any of his predecessors.

“Am I then to believe that there is a real unity?” Most assuredly there is a real and substantial unity; though it be true that some corruptions had been introduced into public service in the middle ages, and still more grievous corruptions had tinged the minds of the people.

“It is undoubted that while three of them would enjoin me, on pain of heavy spiritual penalties, to offer up the sacrifice of the Mass, the inculcation on my flock of the doctrines, for example, of Purgatory, of Invocation of the blessed Virgin and of the Saints—the last-named, Dr. Howley, would as strongly forbid me to do the former, or to hold or to teach either of the latter.” (p. 31.)

Admitting that there would be some difference on these points, it remains to be seen whether the

difference is of such a nature as to destroy the essential oneness of the Church. Now supposing that the three first-named Archbishops received the Sacrifice of the Mass *in a different sense* from that in which it was condemned by the fourth—supposing for instance that *they* received it as a spiritual sacrifice *commemorative* of Christ's death, while *he* condemned it in the sense of its being a *continuation* or *reiteration* of that Sacrifice; where would be the real and essential difference in faith? It is true that there would be a difference in expression and in discipline, because in the one case abuses and errors had not arisen or were not felt, which in the latter were felt and corrected; but still the belief of the Church would remain essentially the same throughout. This was in fact the case, and therefore Mr. Sibthorp's difficulty is at an end.

With reference to Purgatory and the Invocation of Saints, the three first-named would not have been authorized by the Church in teaching them as essentials of religion, for they had never been defined by any Œcumenical Council, and were not generally received as matters of faith in the Eastern and Western Churches. Consequently there would have been no contradiction in essentials—no contrariety in *faith* between those who permitted such doctrines and practices at a time when they were of a less corrupt and pernicious nature than they afterwards became, and those who rejected them when they had become encumbered by intolerable

abuses, and when their evil nature had been fully proved by long experience.

An individual Christian at different periods of his life may vary in his opinions and conduct, without ceasing to be a real believer. He may entertain erroneous views on some points in consequence of the prejudices of early education, or of imperfect information, or in deference to authority superior to his own. He may even exaggerate the importance of those points, so far as to condemn most strongly those who differ from him; and yet, this very person may afterwards, on more full investigation, be convinced that he has been mistaken; and may adopt widely different views and practices from those of his former life. And notwithstanding this change, the man may always have been a true believer. His variations may have never interfered with the substance and vitality of his religion. The careless and the superficial indeed may suppose, that there is so essential a contradiction between his tenets at different times that there has been no continuity of faith—that he has abjured his former religion—that if a Christian formerly he can be so no longer; or that if he be now a Christian, he could not have been so previously to the alteration in his views. This is the argument of a thoughtless or uncandid reasoner—of one who overlooks one of the greatest and truest principles in religion, that “ALL ERROR IS NOT HERESY.”

The case of a Church is analogous to that of an individual Christian. Consisting of a great number of individuals, it is subject to the same variations in different ages which an individual may experience in his own life-time ; and yet the continuity of its faith, the substantial identity of its religion, may be always preserved.

The Church of England in the time of Warham was as different in many of its features from what it had been in the time of St. Augustine, as it now is from what it was in the time of Warham ; yet no one pretends that the Church of Augustine was not that of Warham. In the one age Transubstantiation was unknown : in the other it was enforced as an article of faith. In the former, the worship of images was “ execrated ;” in the latter it was sanctioned and approved. In the former, the Eucharist was administered in both kinds : in the latter, in one only. In the former, Indulgences were remissions of canonical Penances : in the latter, they were viewed as remissions of the penalties due to Divine justice. In the former, the Saints were addressed as creatures : in the latter, they were commonly worshipped with Divine honours. In the former, the Bishops were elected and ordained without reference to the See of Rome : all the important affairs of the Church were regulated by its own Synods : in the latter, the See of Rome was in possession of absolute power. I need not detail all the points of contrast between the Church of Eng-



land as it existed in the time of Augustine and in that of Warham; nor is it necessary to extend the investigation to the remainder of Christendom, and to trace the differences between its condition in the earlier and later ages. Enough I trust has been said to shew, that difference in doctrines and practice does not always prove difference of faith; and if the Church did not lose her continuity by *introducing* innovations during the middle ages: neither did she lose it by *removing* those innovations, and returning more or less closely to her original doctrines and practice.

If we do not see sufficient reason to exclude the Churches in Communion with Rome from the character of Christianity, it is not that we are blind to the corruptions which unhappily exist amongst them. We hold that they are most deeply in need of reformation: but as they do not seem to compel their members to hold doctrines actually heretical and directly contrary to faith; nor to oblige them in all cases, to commit positive Idolatry; we see no sufficient reason to maintain that they are apostate. At the same time, we disapprove of their errors and corruptions; and we regard them as a feeble and unhealthy branch of the Church.

Mr. Sibthorp cannot conceive that *any* real unity can exist in the Church, when two or more branches are opposed to each other on certain points of doctrine or discipline. "It is no longer," he says, "such an unity as all the chief figures in the New



Testament to set it forth suppose; for instance, that of a vine, an household, a family, a temple, a bride." (p. 33.) The figures of a "vine," a "temple," and a "bride," evidently signify the *spiritual* union of the Church with Christ, or its relation to Him. As to the figures of a "household," a "family," or a "kingdom," they certainly do not necessarily imply such an absolute unity as Mr. Sibthorp contends for. Are households, families, and kingdoms never *divided*? Are they never separated into different parties?

But to take the case of the Roman Church herself. Has she *never* been divided? Have not rival Pontiffs divided her communion? Have not Jesuits and Dominicans disputed vehemently on the most important doctrines? Have not the advocates and the opponents of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin denounced each other as heretics? Has not the same degree of contrariety existed between the Cisalpine and Ultramontane parties? Are there not contentions at this moment, on the Papal supremacy and authority, the celibacy of the Clergy, the use of the Latin language in the Liturgy, and other points of doctrine and discipline? *It may be*, as Romanists *assert*, that their disputes do not affect the unity of Faith; but assuredly there have been, and are, differences amongst them, which are inconsistent with that vision of *perfect unity* which Mr. Sibthorp has pictured to himself; and if we admit that this *apparent*

*diversity* is consistent with a real unity of faith, though not of doctrinal tenets, in the Roman Church; why should it be conceived incredible, that diversities between the formal tenets of that Church, and those of other Churches, do not necessarily imply real contradiction in faith—such a contradiction as must exclude either one or the other from the pale of Christianity?

Had Mr. Sibthorp been satisfied of the claims of the Church of England to the character of a Catholic and Apostolic Church, he would not have felt it necessary to enquire how far the errors of the Church of Rome extend, or whether they are or are not contrary to faith.

Mr. Sibthorp seems to have thought himself bound to forsake the Communion of the Church of England, because the doctrines of the Roman Church did not appear objectionable to him on examination. (p. 35, 36.) This motive could only have arisen from a false view of the position of the English Church. He evidently was of opinion, that our separation from the Communion of the Roman Churches was *voluntary*—was *our own act*—and that we are unable to justify our position, except by imputing the most grievous and deadly errors to the Church of Rome.

Little more remains to be added to what has been already said. I shall only advert to one or two points, and then conclude. Mr. Sibthorp (p. 37.) does not admit the plea that an individual

is "bound to remain in the Church in which the providence of God had placed him;" because this would authorise heretics and schismatics to continue in their errors.

But surely *if* the Church in which we are placed be *really Catholic and Apostolic*, it must be *wrong* to separate voluntarily from her communion. The argument then turns entirely on whether the Church is or is not Catholic and Apostolic; and consequently it could never be employed to authorise Sectarians to remain in their errors.

I shall not follow Mr. Sibthorp in his remarks on the principle said to be advocated by No. 90 of the Tracts for the Times. If, as he supposes, it be maintained by any persons, that the doctrines of *Romanism*, properly so called, may be lawfully held in the Church of England; or that there is no diversity between the Churches; and that communion with the English Church is only justifiable on such a supposition, I cannot but agree with him that such an argument is unsupported by fact, and injurious to the character of the Church of England in every point of view.

Some persons doubtless exaggerate the errors prevalent in the Church of Rome, and assail its formularies on certain points with more zeal than discretion. But this ought not to induce others to underrate the great and real corruptions and abuses for which Romanism is fairly responsible. Still less ought it to induce them to wish for the revival of

any notions or practices which the Church of England, in her soundest discretion, has removed ; or to express dissatisfaction with the institutions of this branch of the Catholic Church. Christian unity can never be promoted by weak concessions to error ; by diminished attachment to the Church in which Divine Providence has placed us ; or by harsh and unjust censures on the Reformation.

With reference to Mr. Sibthorp's remarks on the Thirty-first Article, (p. 40, 41.) I would say that the Article in question was most clearly directed not merely against "private Masses," but against the doctrine of the Sacrifice of Masses commonly taught amongst Romanists ; and doubtless the same doctrine is still very commonly held in their communion. Nor is it merely on this point that grievous errors are prevalent amongst them : their views on Purgatory, Indulgences, and Image-worship, not to mention other points, merit censures equally severe with those which the Article has passed on their doctrines concerning the Sacrifice of Masses. Without doubt however, the language of the Council of Trent does not in all cases go to the extent of their popular doctrines.

Mr. Sibthorp imagines (p. 45.) that the private devotions of the Church of Rome are of a more exalted character than he can elsewhere find, and employs this as an argument to justify his secession from the Catholic communion of the English Church. How many heretics and schismatics have

in various ages forsaken the true Church on pretence of seeking for greater edification beyond her pale! He should have remembered, that if the Church of England be indeed Catholic and Apostolic, those devotions which are offered by separatists from her communion cannot be really pleasing to God. And he should also have reflected, that devotions and other religious acts in the Church of Rome are often so deeply mingled with superstition and Idolatry, and performed on motives so erroneous and offensive to God, that even if they present in some respects an appearance of greater piety, they do not really contribute to the greater sanctity of the Church or to the salvation of souls.

THE END.

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*By the same Author.*

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A SUPPLEMENT  
TO AN  
EXAMINATION  
OF  
MR. SIBTHORP'S PAMPHLET,  
COMPRISING  
OBSERVATIONS  
ON HIS  
"FURTHER ANSWER," &c.

---

BY THE REV. WILLIAM PALMER, M.A.  
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## SUPPLEMENT,

&c.

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IN offering some remarks on Mr. Sibthorp's defence of his former publication, it is not my intention to enter at large on all the topics embraced in his pamphlet, more especially as the subject has already engaged the attention of several able writers. In the following pages then it is proposed only to notice a very few of the leading points in Mr. Sibthorp's reply.

1. The defence which is set up for the argument from the Levitical types, is advanced with much plausibility, and with a tone of great confidence; but it will be found on examination to be wholly unavailing.

My argument was, that since a type must be something of a different nature from its antitype—since the type is but a shadow, while the antitype is a substance—since the former is of an inferior or carnal nature, and the latter of a superior, spiritual nature—the external visible unity of the Jewish people (when it existed); their “strict, perfect, and evident unity of faith, of worship, of laws, of discipline, of religious ordinances;” their high-priest,

“in his person, offices, and residence, a *centre of unity* to the whole nation far and near;” their priests and levites with mystical vestments; their magnificent ritual, and their feast-days, could not have *typified* circumstances or institutions of the same nature under the Gospel.

Mr. Sibthorp’s own proofs and admissions establish this argument in the most satisfactory manner. He cites (p. 6.) Schleusner’s statement that the word “shadow,” used by the Apostle to signify the typical character of legal institutions, “*notat omnem levem adumbrationem, symbolicam expressionem, imaginem levem ac obscuram alicujus rei.*” He admits that the Jewish institutions are “a *faint outline or sketch*” of the Gospel dispensation, and that “there must always be” an “*inferiority*” of the type to the antitype “in some *important* respects.” This being the case, I would ask, Whether the external visible unity of a Christian Church, or even its unity in faith, was *obscurely and slightly shadowed forth* by the very same sort of unity in the Jewish? Was the latter a mere “*faint outline or sketch*” of the former? And again, Was the Jewish high priest “an *obscure image*,” a “*faint sketch*” of the Priest imagined to preside with the same powers over the Christian Church? Were the feast-days, the vestments, and the magnificence of the Jewish ritual, mere “*slight adumbrations*” of similar things in Christianity? How, in short, can unity in communion, be a mere *adumbration* of unity in communion? or, unity in faith, of unity in faith? or, an



earthly Head of the Church, of a similar earthly Head? There is nothing like “adumbration,” or “shadowing forth” in all this. The one portion is not a “faint sketch” of the other. Both are alike substantial and complete. There is no marked superiority of one over the other. The one is a repetition of the other—or a close imitation of the other; and therefore they cannot possibly stand in the relation of type and antitype.

All the examples of types and antitypes adduced in reply by Mr. Sibthorp, only confirm still more what has been already said. “The blood of one creature shed before God on earth, was the type of the blood of another creature, *far more dignified*, and *to nobler ends*, shed before God on earth.” (p. 71.) Certainly: the one was the blood of an irrational animal, shed for the sins of those who offered it: the other was the blood of One who was both God and Man: and it was shed for the sins of the *whole world*. “The sacrifice of the paschal lamb was a shadow of another more excellent sacrifice.” Certainly: it was a shadow of the sacrifice of the INCARNATE GOD for the sins of *the world*. “The water of the flood prefigured or was a type of the water of baptism.” Certainly: in the one case there was a salvation from *temporal* death; in the other from *eternal*. Is it then “overstrained” or “mistaken” to maintain, that a type is something of a very different nature from its antitype; and that the latter must be something of a far higher and more spiritual character than the former?

It is a mere fallacy to argue that, because “the *man* Isaac bearing the wood of his offering is a type of the *man* Christ Jesus bearing His cross,” (p. 8.) there is not necessarily any difference in nature between a type and its antitype. I have not contended that they must differ in *every respect*. I cited “the *High Priest* entering the earthly temple as a type of *Jesus* entering Heaven,” though they shared the same human nature. All that is contended for is, that there must be some material difference in nature between a type and its antitype; and Mr. Sibthorp’s instance proves this: for the man Isaac bearing the wood of his offering, is the type—not of another man engaged in any similar act, but of the INCARNATE GOD bearing His cross for the redemption of the whole world. To what a sublime elevation does the antitype rise above the type!

I need not point out how the other types adduced by Mr. S. (p. 8.) establish my position. Their consideration would add strength to the assertion “that the types of the Old Testament were always of a different nature from the things which they prefigured.”

Mr. Sibthorp infers (p. 8.) from my statement that the Fathers “speak of bishops, priests, and deacons, as holding offices *corresponding* to those of Aaron, the Priests, and Levites,” that those writers “regarded the sacred priesthood and holy offices of the Old Testament Church as *prefiguring* those of the New.” Here we have again the same sort of confusion between a *correspondence* or *resemblance*,

and a *type*. The Fathers to whom I referred did not speak of any *typical* relation between the Jewish Priesthood and the Christian Ministry : they simply stated the general similarity of rank and power between the three degrees of each ministry respectively. Thus Tertullian says, “ Dandi quidem Baptismi jus habet *Summus Sacerdos* qui est Episcopus.” Optatus, again, “ Quid commemorem . . . diaconos in *tertio*, quid presbyteros in *secundo sacerdotio* constitutos ? Ipsi *apices* et *principes* omnium Episcopi &c.” Jerome, “ Ut sciamus traditiones apostolicas sumptas de Veteri Testamento, quod Aaron, et filii ejus, atque Levitæ in Templo fuerunt, hoc sibi episcopi, et presbyteri, et diaconi vendicent in Ecclesia.” These are the passages to which I referred, and to which many others of the same kind might be added. They are silent as to any *typical* relation between the Jewish and Christian ministers ; but they assert their correspondence or similarity. But supposing, for the sake of argument, that they *had* supposed the three degrees of the Jewish Priesthood to be *typical* of those of the Christian Ministry, Mr. Sibthorp’s argument would gain nothing. For if Aaron was the type of every Christian Bishop, it follows that a Bishop is the *highest* spiritual ruler in the Church immediately under God ; and therefore, that if there be any superiority of *one Bishop over another*, it cannot be of Divine institution, but must arise either from usurpation, or from human and changeable regulations. The same conclusion follows directly from the *actual* sentiments of the

Fathers above adduced. In comparing each Bishop to Aaron, they asserted his *supremacy* in the Church, and his essential *equality with all other Bishops*; and this was undeniably the doctrine of the Catholic Church in general, as St. Jerome says, “*Ubi-  
que fuerit episcopus, sive Romæ, sive Eugubii . . .  
ejusdem meriti, ejusdem est et sacerdotii. Potentia  
divitiarum et paupertatis humilitas vel sublimiorem  
vel inferiorem episcopum non facit. Cæterum  
omnes Apostolorum successores sunt*<sup>a</sup>.” Hence St. Cyprian rejects the notion of any “Bishop of Bishops.” Hence St. Gregory declares that the assumption of the title of “Universal Bishop” would be Antichristian; for it is certain from Scripture that the Apostles were all SUPREME. “God hath set some in the Church: FIRST Apostles, secondarily prophets” &c.; and it was said to them individually and collectively, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost: whosoever sins ye remit &c.,” and “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, . . and lo, I am with you always.” So that there was no power in the Church above that of the Apostles; as St. Chrysostom says, “The Apostolate is not only the *first* of all dignities, but the root and foundation of all others<sup>b</sup>.” And the equality of the other Apostles with St. Peter in official power and dignity, is equally testified by the Fathers, as by St. Cyprian, “*Hoc erant utique cæteri apostoli quod fuit Petrus, pari consortio præditi et honoris et potestatis*<sup>c</sup>,” and by Isidore His-

<sup>a</sup> Hieron. Epist. ad Evagrium.

<sup>b</sup> Chrysost. t. iii. Oper. p. 75. Ed. Ben.

<sup>c</sup> Cypr. De Unit. Eccl.

palensis, “Cæteri apostoli cum Petro par consortium honoris et potestatis acceperunt<sup>d</sup> ;” and even by Cardinal Nicholas de Cusa, “Scimus quod Petrus nihil plus potestatis a Christo recepit aliis Apostolis<sup>e</sup>.” I trust that I may now without presumption say, that Mr. Sibthorp’s defence of his leading argument has only served still further to shew its utter fallaciousness.

What has been already said of the essential difference between a type and its antitype, will suffice for an answer to Mr. Sibthorp’s attempt to shew that the visible unity, feast-days, &c. of the Jews, *prefigured* those of the Church, (p. 9—13). I shall not therefore notice his arguments more particularly than to observe, that he has entirely failed to prove from the Fathers that the Jewish feasts *prefigured* the Christian ; for no *typical relation* between them is mentioned in any of the passages which he has adduced.

Mr. Sibthorp is of opinion, that I have met his positions respecting the presence of God in the temple, the sevenfold light, and the sculptured and portrayed Angels, “by a simple supposition of other meanings,” (p. 14.) and he remains satisfied with the persuasion, that those meanings may be quite correct, and yet may not interfere with the truth of what he has himself put forward. My argument was, and is, that the interpretations advanced by him in these points are PURELY CONJECTURAL—and,

<sup>d</sup> Isid. Hisp. De Officiis, l. ii. c. 5.

<sup>e</sup> Cusanus, De Conc. Cath. l. ii. c. 13.



consequently, that they can never afford any solid basis for argument, or for decisions on important points of Christian doctrine and morals. It is very true as he alleges (p. 15.) that a particular type *may* have several antitypes; it is equally true that it *may* have only one antitype. How can Mr. Sibthorp prove that the particular types in question were *intended* to be fulfilled in *several* modes? And if he cannot do this, then how can he maintain that his interpretation is true, when different meanings are given by the Fathers? Surely the mere existence of *some sort of similitude* between certain legal and certain Christian institutions, does not infer, with any sort of probability, the *typical* relation of the former to the latter. Ingenuity might trace a great number of such imaginary antitypes for each legal rite or ceremony; and were we to follow Mr. Sibthorp's example, and without any guide but our own private judgments, proceed to determine great points of doctrine and morality on such grounds, it is impossible to say what amount of heresy, error, and schism might be the result. A real Catholic will found his belief and practice, not on uncertain applications of obscure passages; not on the reveries of mystical interpretations unsupported by any cogent reason or authority; but on the clear and certain declamations of the Word of God, received and upheld by the unanimous voice of the Universal Church.

II. Mr. Sibthorp occupies much space in endeavouring to prove that the Church of England differs at present in some points of doctrine and discipline



from the Anglo-Saxon Church ; and he hence argues that it is quite absurd to imagine that the one is but the continuation of the other. It would be easy to meet all that he has said on these differences, and to prove that they do not interfere with the continuity of the Church. The discussion however would occupy too much time ; and I shall therefore merely revert to my reply, that Romanists themselves admit the Church of England previously to the Reformation to have been the same as the Anglo-Saxon Church. But there were important differences between them in doctrine and discipline ; and therefore Mr. Sibthorp is inconsistent as a Romanist in denying the identity of the English Church before and after the Reformation, on account of the mere fact that important differences in doctrine and discipline may be pointed out. I shall adduce a *very few* instances of the difference between the Anglo-Saxon Church and that of later times, employing only such authorities as Mr. Sibthorp will admit fairly to represent their tenets.

## PRAYER TO SAINTS.

*Ancient English Church.*

It is written in the old law that no man shall PRAY to any thing but to God alone : because no creature is worthy of that honour ; but He alone who is the Maker of all things. . . We desire intercession of holy men that they will intercede for us to their Lord and our Lord. Nevertheless we do not PRAY

*Later English Church.*

I PRAY THEE, O Queen of Heaven, comfort a sinner, and give not thine honour to a stranger. . . Hold me excused in the presence of thy Son Christ, whose wrath and fury I fear and dread ; FOR AGAINST THEE ONLY HAVE I SINNED. O Virgin Mary, be not averse from me, thou who art filled with celestial

to them, as we do to God, nor will they suffer it; as His angel said to John the Apostle when he would have fallen at his feet: 'Do it not, bow not thyself to me, I am God's servant as thou art; pray to God only.'—*Anglo-Saxon Homily, Dom. i. in Quadrag; Wheloc. in Bed. p. 283.*

grace; be thou *the guardian of my heart, seal me with the fear of God; grant me soundness of life and goodness of morals: and grant me to avoid sins, and love what is just.*—*Horæ ad usum Sar. fol. 44.*

O William . . . *cleanse us in death, grant thine assistance, remove the sins of our lives, and give us the joys of a celestial crown.*—*Ibid, fol. 78.*

### IMAGES.

In the year 792 Charles, king of the Franks, sent a synodal book to Britain directed to him from Constantinople, in which were found many things . . . contrary to the true faith; especially because it was confirmed by the unanimous assertion of almost all the Eastern doctors . . . *that images ought to be adored, WHICH THE CHURCH OF GOD ALTOGETHER EXECRATES.* Against which Albinus wrote an epistle, admirably confirmed by the authority of Holy Scripture, and directed it in the name of our bishops and princes to the king of the Franks.—*Roger de Hovedon, Rer. Angl. Script. p. 405, Ed. Francof. 1601.*

Not only the human nature of Christ IS TO BE ADORED, *but also His manger, the wood of the cross, and all memorials of the Saviour.* . . . It is lawful to adore (such) divine things with DIVINE WORSHIP, if the faith of the worshipper be such that he beholds God as it were standing at the doors. . . . Thus Paula *adored the cross*, not believing it to be God, but as if she beheld the Lord on it.—*Thomas Waldensis, De Sacram., p. iii. c. 120.*

I swear to God . . . that from this day forward I shall worship images with *praying and offering* unto them, in the worship of the saints that they be made after.—*Oath made to Archbishop Arundel. Collier, ii. 599.*

### TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

The Sacrament of the body and blood of Christ which we

William Courtney, Archbishop of Canterbury, and six other

receive are a divine thing, because by them we are made partakers of the Divine nature, *and yet the substance or nature of the bread and wine does not cease to exist.*—*Pope Gelasius, De duabus Naturis.*

*By nature* it (the Eucharist) is corruptible bread and corruptible wine, and through the truth of the Lord's word it is truly the body and blood of Christ, yet *not corporeally* but spiritually. There is much difference between that body in which Christ suffered, and that which is consecrated into the Eucharist &c.—*Paschal Homily of the Anglo-Saxon Church.*

bishops, in 1382, pronounced the following doctrines heretical. "That the material substance of bread and wine remain after consecration in the sacrament of the altar."

"Also, That Christ is not in the Sacrament of the altar, identically, truly, and really in His *proper corporeal presence.*" —*Wilkins, Concilia* iii. 157.

## COMMUNION IN BOTH KINDS.

We find that some persons, receiving the holy body only, abstain from the cup of the holy blood; who without doubt, (since they are withheld by some unknown *superstition*), should either receive the Sacrament **WHOLE**, or be *repelled from the whole*, because a division of the one and the same mystery cannot occur without **A GREAT SACRILEGE.**—*Pope Gelasius, Dist. 2. de consecr. c. comperimus.*

While the bread is broken, *while the blood is poured from the cup into the mouths of the faithful*, what else is signified but His death on the Cross, and the flowing of His blood from

Whereas in some parts of the world, certain persons *presume rashly to assert* that the Christian people ought to receive the holy Sacrament of the Eucharist under *both kinds* of bread and wine . . this present holy general Council of Constance . . . declares, decrees, and determines, that *although* Christ instituted this Sacrament after Supper, and administered it to His disciples under both kinds of bread and wine, yet notwithstanding this . . . and in like manner, *although* in the primitive Church this Sacrament was received of the faithful under both kinds, yet for the avoiding

His side?—*Lanfranc, Archbp. of Canterbury, de Eucharistiæ Sacramento.*

No one shall communicate, without receiving the body *and the blood*, SEPARATELY; except through necessity and precaution.—*Council of Clermont, Can. 28.*

any dangers and scandals, the custom has reasonably been introduced, that it be received by the laity *only under the kind of bread*.—*Council of Constance, Sess. xiii.*

The above instances of differences on very important points are but a few of those which might be traced; and they will sufficiently shew the fallacy of that reasoning which would deny the continuity of the Church, merely on the ground that such differences can be pointed out. No one denies that the English Church before the Reformation was the same Church which existed in Anglo-Saxon times, though it certainly had been altered in some material respects in the course of ages. Therefore the mere fact that important changes *did* take place at the Reformation; changes which, in various points, *restored* what had been originally received or practised, cannot afford any presumption that the English Church lost her continuity. We may in consequence pass over Mr. Sibthorp's allegations with reference to the Papal Supremacy, Invocation of Saints, the Sacrifice of the Mass<sup>f</sup>, Purgatory, and other points. Even

<sup>f</sup> I would merely remark that our views of the public service of the Church in ancient times do not depend on the opinions of an individual Father, but on the nature of that service itself. The references then to Pope Gregory (p. 26.) cannot prove the *offices of the Church* in his days to have been objectionable, more especially as he does not maintain the doctrine that the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross was *repeated* or *continued* in the Eucharist.

supposing that he could establish the full extent of what he contends for, or shew that there is a real difference in principle on these points (which however is by no means the case), still we might reply, that we, on our parts, can shew differences *fully as important* between the Anglo-Saxon Church, and the Church just before the Reformation.

III. I shall only make one or two further observations, and then conclude. Mr. Sibthorp alleges that the mode in which I have shewn the agreement between the Church of England at all times, would equally shew that Donatists, Novatians, Arians, and Nestorians, belonged to the unity of the Church. (p. 32.) He forgets that the former sects were open separatists from the Universal Church, and that the latter were condemned by her formal judgments. Therefore they could not have been any part of the Church. It is plain that the case of those Sectaries is wholly irrelevant, and has nothing to do with the position of the English Church.

There is nothing strange or absurd in the assertion that all sects holding fundamental doctrines do not belong to the Church of Christ. Mr. Sibthorp appears wholly to forget that there is such a sin as *schism*; and that, putting aside the question as to whether episcopacy is or is not *fundamental*, there can be no doubt that those who have voluntarily separated from the communion of the Church, and from obedience to their legitimate pastors, as the founders of Dissent did, were really schismatics, and as such were cut off from the Christian Church.



I enquired whether "there are not contentions at this moment on the Papal Supremacy and authority, the celibacy of the Clergy, the use of the Latin language in the Liturgy." Mr. Sibthorp replies, "*What* contentions? and where? I affirm that they exist only in the imagination of the writer." (p. 37.) I think I have said "*what*" contentions are meant. "*Where?*" In Germany, Poland, Spain, America, and elsewhere. Had Mr. Sibthorp perused the Encyclical Letter of Gregory XVI. (quoted in my Treatise on the Church, Part 1. Chap. xi, where the divisions of the Roman Church are more particularly examined), and considered the state of Germany, and the continued existence of Hermesian doctrines lately developed in the Dublin Review, he would not have ventured to ask the questions which he has done.

I now take my leave of this subject, and resign its further prosecution into the hands of other writers, who are fully competent to the task which they have undertaken.









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